

Charlotte Conservation Commission
Draft Meeting Minutes
October 24, 2023
Town Hall and on Zoom
7:00 pm

**Maggie Citarella, Dave McNally, Pete Demick, Maggie Korey,
Claudia Mucklow, Sharon Mount, and Susan Blood.**

Guests:

**Paul Plante, Charles Russell, Barbara Russ, Dean Williams,
Frank Tenney, Daniel Zilka, and JD Herlihy.**

Action Items:

- Susan - send Sharon the town reports from past years!
 - Pete - talk with Dean or Nate about putting cameras on Charlotter's land with permission
- anything else the town would want us to do?
-

1.Meeting Call to Order

2. Nature Notes

- Skunks are definitely out! Skunky dog!
- Crayfish - 2 sightings! Have never seen them here before!
- Aquatic Insects!
- Lots of Blue Heron!
- Pack of Racoons around!

3. Agenda Additions / Deletions - None!

4. Public Comment - Add 1 pager for DRB to DRB time!

5. Administration (Minutes, DRB Review Assignments, Town Report, December Meeting)

September meeting minutes approved.

DRB applications - there is a solar application. Doesn't seem to be a big thing.

Pete and Maggie K. are reviewers for this month - motion made, seconded and approved.

Town Report - Due Nov 30th - Look at old reports and thank Mel! Motion made to assign Sharon to write a draft! Seconded and approved!

Motion made to change December meeting to the 19th since otherwise it would be on the 26th! Seconded and approved!

One pager that the DRB requested we put together to give new applicants heading before the DRB. We worked with Rebecca and Aaron to finalize it in August. We thought it was finalized then and that it was already being given out but that is not the case. It's been edited again and now it's a 2 pager and it includes the statute which outlines how the CCC should be involved. Charles Russell and Rebecca from the town made additional edits in the last week in an effort to explain clearly how applicants should work with the CCC during the permitting process.

The DRB will look at the edited version at their meeting tomorrow. In the future, we should communicate with Rebecca and Aaron and cc: Charles Russell so that communication is clearer. Here is a link to the [document](#) in its current form.

The first Steering Committee Meeting for the Town Master Plan is tomorrow. Maggie C. will go.

Selectboard decision about Thompson Point - Russ/Williams Camp: We still don't know why they made that decision. And it's frustrating for us to not understand the reasoning behind this decision. We wrote the Selectboard in September and said that if this decision stood it would (part of a longer list):

1. Damage the trust between the Selectboard and other Town boards and staff.
2. Negatively impact the morale of volunteers on other Town boards.
3. Set up a precedent that the Selectboard will not support other Town boards and staff.

The Planning Commission is figuring out how to change the LUR's for Thompson's Point. Claudia looked back at old Thompson's Point decisions and they made note of which equipment could be used, tree replanting etc.

It's possible the decision was made between the 2 lawyers (one for the town, the other for the applicants) because the cost of a lawyer for the town. But we would really like a clear answer to why this decision was made. It's possible the DRB will look at this and see if there's a better way to handle situations like this so the process will be better in the future.

Could we write something to the SB endorsing the DRB's new process suggestions and flagging some questions that we still have? Motion made for Maggie to draft a letter after going to the DRB meeting. Seconded and approved.

6. Town Planning and Development Review (Updates, Habitat Map)

No updates on the Habitat Map.

Can Pete put something out on FPF that the CC is willing to put out cameras on properties in town? He just pulled the cameras he had on Pease Mountain and there is no wildlife there. Just dogs and people even though cameras were 100 ft off the trail. Is

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this a good conservation currents article? Do we need to have property owners sign a release? Something that gives us permission to do it, protects us and the town legally and states that we won't share the photos without their permission? Pete will put the cameras out in the Wildlife refuge which will be a good comparison to Pease Mountain and then we'll figure out what to do next with them! Pete will talk to Dean or Nate and see if it's a good idea at all, in terms of the town, and then possibly Maggie K. will draft something for land owners to sign before we go out on their land to put out cameras!

7. Outreach (Walks, Member Recognition, Trails, Planning)

Mushroom Walk - this was a success! We will plan another one for late June! We only lost \$10 and we'll make that all up next year! :)

Member Recognition - We will honor Mel Huff in the town report letter.

8. Adjourn

Motion made to adjourn. Seconded and passed.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Susan Blood.