

## Conservation\_Minutes\_2.18.2021

Attending: Linda Hecker, Linda Lembke, Bill Jewell, Marli Rabinowitz, Susan Bonthron, Steve Soszynski, Anne Montgomery, Bevan Quinn, Karen Murphy, Michael Becker

Guests: David Eastman, Patti Smith, Paul Belogour

Meeting called to order at 5:30 PM via Zoom.

Minutes from January 21, 2021 accepted unanimously.

We introduced the board to Paul Belogour noting where we live in Guilford. Linda Hecker shared a brief slide show that explained our Mission Statement, role in town government, challenges to Guilford's natural resources (development and forest fragmentation), current projects (natural resources inventory, ash tree inventory and animal and plant invasives), Communications and Citizen science.

Paul described his vision for the Viking Village which he explained would be a low impact tourist destination. The 1500 acres is not posted and he is agreeable to folks exploring the property and hiking, biking, skiing, snowshoeing and ATV riding on the six or so miles of trails. He is passionate about trees and was receptive to the concept of old growth forests and that management for old growth forests is different from sugar bush management. He invited us to come to the Viking Village. He also agreed that Patti Smith may come do her NRI research on his property.

Community Values Mapping: A committee of Conservation and Planning Commission members has been working with Margo Ghia from the WRC and Jens Hilke from Fish and Wildlife to plan a community mapping event where town residents will map and discuss places that are special to them in Guilford. Guilford residents can participate at a live virtual live forum on March 9, or at a self-guided website from March 10-24, or on a large map at the Playscape kiosk from March 10-24. Announcements will be posted on the town website and Front Porch Forum two weeks prior, and email announcements will be sent to Guilford organizations, officials, farmers and businesses. CC and PC members will also make phone calls to neighbors to encourage participation.

Linda H described an Arbor Day Tree Planting Grant from the VT Urban and Community Forest program. It would provide some funds to purchase trees. The thought is to plant trees/ shrubs between the school and town office. The grant is due March 26.

Ash tree preservation: Sam Schneski suggested that if we are to preserve any ash trees he recommends the one near the town office and the one in

the center triangle of Green River Village. The topic of which pesticide to use was discussed and will be researched.

The next meeting is March 18 at 5:30.

Meeting adjourned at 6:57.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Murphy

Clerk Guilford Conservation Commission