

Conservation_Minutes_3.18.2021

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

Guest: Dave Eastman

Not attending: Bevan Quinn, Michael Becker

Meeting called to order at 5:30.

Minutes from February 18, 2021 accepted.

Reviewed Action Steps from February/March.

Review of Weeks Forest bridge; Dave is having trouble finding bridge supports. Hemlock was again suggested and the toxicity of pressure treated discussed as alternatives to locust. He has railing and decking material. The decision on how to proceed was tabled until we have a work day on the trail.

Preserving Ash trees: The two trees under consideration are the one in the Green River Village triangle (in town ROW) and the other is outside of the town office. Treatment needs to be started before EAB infests trees. The cost is approximately \$200 per tree every two years. The pesticides recommended are systemic and thus should not be a problem for pollinators, but would affect leaf eaters. The Green River trust will be consulted. Also arborists will be asked for their opinions about pesticide treatment and cost.

The Arbor Day grant is almost ready to be submitted. The school community as well as some members of the GCC collaborated about design and specific tree species to be planted. The grant is due on March 29.

Community Values Mapping: Those who attended (virtually) were for the most part pleased with the exercise. There is still more time for town residents to participate either with the online mapping software that was used on March 9 or by stopping in at the Playscape kiosk and marking the posted map. Both options are available until March 24.

This exercise generated ideas of how best to incorporate our findings. Focused maps, such as historical places, or farming in Guilford, and great places to walk were three mentioned. Volunteers stepped forward to help with such projects.

AVCC Tiny Grant: We need to have a clear idea of exactly how we would use funds to extend the Carriage Trail before an application is submitted. We will be consulting with the Recreation Commission about the cross country ski trail and also walk the proposed extension(s) later in the spring.

The GCC would like to reinstitute the walks we used to sponsor prior to COVID-19. Surveying our important/special trees along the town's ROWs has been suggested for the first walks. Planning will be begin in June with the hope that walks can safely begin in July/August.

NRI: As the Natural Resources Inventory nears completion, the next question is how to present the findings in a way that residents can use and appreciate. One

format is the Story Map which would be an online presentation of our natural resources. There would be a link on the town web site to access the information.

Collaborative Updates

Green River Watershed Association: River access topic was discussed. The restrictions of the coronavirus contributed to “loving our rivers to death” and causing conflict between different user groups. The Franklin County District (MA) report examines this issue and how difficult it is to resolve overuse of certain river areas.

The Deerfield Watershed is working on designation the Deerfield River and its watershed as Wild and Scenic. This includes the Green River. All towns in the watershed have agreed to this designation.

Forest Connectivity: Waiting to write a report on zoning ordinances and town plans that aid in maintaining forest connectivity.

The next meeting is April 15 at 5:30 PM probably via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 6:52.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Murphy
Clerk Guilford Conservation Commission