

Conservation_Minutes_5.20.2021

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

Not attending: Bevan Quinn

Select Board: Michael Becker

Public: Patti Smith, Dave Eastman

Meeting called to order at 5:30 outside at the town office.

Minutes from March 18 and April 14 accepted unanimously.

Agenda item added: Weeks Forest report

Materials for the bridge finalized. Marli's friend donated locust and it is now at Kerber's mill. There was a discussion on how to proceed. We need five young strong volunteers (unlikely) to help with the construction and heavy lifting or hiring someone with a mini excavator. The bridge committee, Steve, Dave, and Bevan will figure out the best way forward.

Patti Smith gave us her update on the Natural resources Inventory. She needs about 12 more hours of field work and about 48 more to research and finish the report. She has explored the idea of Story Maps but it has turned out to be a complicated and costly way to communicate the findings with Guilford residents. She will be looking at other ways to report her findings that might include a Power Point presentation with text and pictures that can be posted on the town website.

A side discussion which segued into the Equity and Inclusion piece involved the presence of Black Ash in Guilford. There is not much of it but the Abenaki and Mohawk are very interested in managing the trees as they are used in traditional crafts such as basket making.

Arbor Day Review:

Board members will be maintaining a watering schedule. Anne demonstrated how to use the gator bags and hooking up the hoses to the water supply.

The trees look healthy.

EAB Awareness Week:

Large posters were tied to ash trees around town to help educate residents about the EAB challenge. They will be removed after May 22.

Community Values Mapping: On May 26 Jens Hilke will be presenting the findings of our Community Values Mapping exercise. This will be a Zoom presentation from 7-8 PM.

Ash Tree Preservation: Bob Everyingham will be treating two ash trees in town. One is the tree outside the town office and the other is in the triangle of Green River Village. The treatment is needed every two years for 10 years.

Collaboration updates and other business will be added to June's meeting.

The next meeting is June 17 at 5:30 Pm, hopefully outside the town office.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Murphy
Clerk Guilford Conservation Commission