

Conservation_Minutes_ 6.17.2021

Attending: Linda Hecker, Linda Lembke, Marli Rabinowitz, Bevin Quinn, Steve Sosyznski, Anne Montgomery, Susan Bonthron, Karen Murphy

Not attending: Bill Jewell, Michael Becker

Public: Dave Eastman, Jethro Eaton

Meeting called to order at 5:30.

Meeting agenda changed to allow Jethro to speak first.

Jethro Eaton, representing the Planning Commission, has concerns about the Land Use section of the Town Plan as it needs to be reviewed and edited soon. He would like the GCC's help in reviewing the current town plan and make new language suggestions. This section of the town plan and how it is implemented is vital to hearings with Act 250 and securing grant funding.

Minutes from May 5 unanimously accepted.

Weeks Forest Trail bridge update: Dave, Bevan and Steve have been planning on the final design and construction of the proposed bridge. Materials have been secured. The thought is to have a piece of equipment to dig the base for the bridge and remove the old culvert. The deck and railings will be precut and assembled on site. The trail will be closed for this part and it should not take more that a day to complete.

Invasives Patrol: Several GCC members and one resident volunteer spent time removing Wild Chervil (*Anthriscus sylvestris*) near Sweet Pond and near Burdick Road. Wild Parsnip (*Heracleum Maximum*), a native plant is blooming now. It is important to cut them down in the Town's ROW so that the road crew is not exposed to the phototoxic sap. It is quite easy to confuse these plants with several others such as Angelica (*Angelica sylvestris*) and Wild parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*).

Community Values Mapping:

Several groups are or might be interested in mapping agricultural soils. There is also interest in mapping historical sites.

Wildlife Crossings:

The most active and well known are the salamander migrations (Hinesburg and Green River Roads) in early spring and also turtle movement (near northern end of Weatherhead Hollow Pond). Mammals such as otters, bear, deer and bobcats cross on the Center Road.

It would be important to have these crossings marked on the maps for the new Town Plan.

Collaborative Updates:

GRWA: There is a bi-state committee that is concerned with river access as the pandemic put a lot of pressure on river use in summer 2020. Signs were posted in two languages to encourage visitors to remove trash.

Going forward, the High Meadow grant will fund a visioning process.

Linda Hecker reported that there is a balance of donated funds for the restoration of Sweet Pond that might be used for upkeep and maintenance of the trail around the pond.

Important Trees Walk:

A walk is being planned for Potter Hill Road on July 11 at 9:30 AM. Details will be posted on Front Porch Forum and the established "walk" list.

The next meeting is July 15 at 5:30 PM. Currently we are meeting outside at the town office.

Meeting adjourned at 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Murphy
Clerk Guilford Conservation Commission.