

Minutes

Brookfield Conservation Commission Meeting

April 17, 2023

Meeting was called to order at 7:20 pm after technological issues kept us from including Jon J. and Sue S. into the meeting through Zoom. Thanks to Amy Ingrassia, who happened to be in the town office and found the wifi password for the Town Office internet connection (we had been using the library connection in the past, which does not need a password, but it was not functioning at the time). Present at the Brookfield library were Starr Strong, Jon Binhammer, and Marty Allen. Present online were Jon Jickling and Sue Shea.

1. Review Agenda – no changes proposed
2. Public Comment - none
3. Approval of Minutes of the March 2023 meeting – Starr moved to approve, Sue seconded. All voted in favor to approve the minutes.
4. Report from Sue and Jon re: Wildlife Connectivity in Brookfield and Williamstown meeting – Sue explained that this was a regular meeting of the Vermont Staying Connected Initiative group, but it was entirely focused on the Williamstown and Brookfield wildlife corridor. About 25 folks were in attendance on Zoom, including biologists from VTF&W, VTrans officials, Regional Commission staff, representatives from conservation organizations, Vermont Housing and Conservation Board and a couple of representatives from the Williamstown Planning Commission. We shared our map and some of our recommendations to the Planning Commission for our Conservation district and our Wildlife Corridor overlay district. Others shared information about what they were doing in this geography. Sue explained that we were also working on the wildlife underpass on Northfield Road. It was a good meeting; we'll follow up with Jens to obtain contact information for the folks we with whom we could coordinate.
5. Town Forest boundary marking – Jon J said he reached out to AJ Follensbee about obtaining paint for the boundary – hasn't heard back yet. But before

leaf-out Jon wants to get out and at least flag the boundary. We decided he would set up some work party afternoons with Commissioners on a Thursday or Friday to start flagging boundary.

6. Update on work with Planning Commission to update bylaws - Jon B. sent the recommendations and the map to Gwynne Zakov, but has not heard back from her. He'll try again – no one was available to attend the last Planning Commission meeting.
7. Bylaw amendment – Commissioners decided to amend the bylaws of the BCC to allow for up to 7 members with a quorum being a majority of the members serving at the time. There were a few other tweaks to the bylaws as well. The revised bylaw changes will need to be warned 7 days prior to the next meeting and sent to the Selectboard chair.
8. Green-up Day tasks – Starr may be out of town either before or during the event, so we all agreed to pitch in if needed. Starr plans to put it out on FPF, call some people to get them out, and staff the drop off at the town garage for half the day. Jon B will do the other half.
9. Summer events – Jon B. suggested a hike on Ainsworth State Park, perhaps in June – date to be determined.
10. New business – Pollinator Pathways – a new Brookfield resident is a biologist for USFS, and is interested in helping educate folks about pollinator conservation. Commissioners discussed various possibilities and other potential speakers. Nothing was decided.
11. Starr moved to adjourn, Jon J. seconded, all voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:27pm – next meeting is May 15, 2023