

Minutes

Brookfield Conservation Commission Meeting

November 20, 2023 7:00 pm

Brookfield Town Office

Meeting convened at 7:04 PM. Present: Jon Binhammer, Starr Strong, Susan Shea, Jon Jickling

1. Review Agenda
2. Public Comment – None.
3. Approval of Minutes of the October 2023 meeting
 - a. Minutes approved. The commission complimented Sarah on quality of note-taking.
4. H. 126 Community Resilience and Biodiversity Protection Act
 - a. Legislation to promote land conservation (forest/ecosystems and community wellbeing, recreation and flood resilience) passed last session which outlines target of 30% of land conserved by 2030, 50% conserved by 2050.
 - b. ANR and VHCB are starting to explore what can be done to move this initiative forward. Will inventory of conserved land.
 - c. Commission to explore opportunities to develop efforts to support this conservation initiative, e.g., meeting at Old Town Hall on land conservation with Mead Binhammer of VT Land Trust.
5. Woody material in streams
 - a. Studies about the benefits of addition of woody material to streambeds to create fish habitat and flood mitigation by slowing and spreading water. Are there opportunities in Brookfield on smaller streams? Education program (e.g., reach out Rudy Ruddell) about flood plains, building resilience.
6. Invasives and BCC- the start of a discussion

- a. Discussed possible BCC role on invasives: for example, encourage town to change mowing practices that spread chervil and other invasives? Bittersweet, phragmites are other candidates for focus on education, monitoring and control.
7. Winter education programs
- a. Possibilities: Galapagos photos by Starr in March
 - b. Winter walk: Moon Mountain or Allis snowshoe or walk focusing on Tracks and Trees in February
 - c. Summer: OTH program on land conservation or flood resilience. Field trip on Reading the forested landscape.
8. Ongoing project updates
- a. I-89 underpass gamecam tracking: west side of highway inside chainlink fence enclosure had not captured animals compared to the animal photos captured on east side. Some question on whether deer on the camera chip were photographed in Chelsea rather than Brookfield.
 - b. Town forest boundary marking: proposed to continue work in spring.
 - c. Budget for 2024: increase budgetary request to \$600
9. Adjourn at 8:38 PM – next meeting is January 15, 2024