

Londonderry Conservation Commission
Minutes
These minutes are not yet approved by the commission.
March 20, 2014

Administration Matters:

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Members present: Mark Wright, Irwin Kuperberg, Bob Trask, Bob Twitchell, and Kathie Stone.

The minutes of the January meeting were reviewed and a motion was made to accept the minutes as written by Irwin Kuperberg with a second by Bob Trask. The motion passed. There was no meeting held in February.

Bob Twitchell gave the Treasurers report reminding members that the Operating Account was now closed with funds transferred into the Town accounts. He stated that he would give a treasurers report every January from now on for the Conservation Fund.

Members expressed concern over Irwin Kuperberg's report not being published in the Town report. It was decided that it would be published on the website since it did not make the report. Peggy to provide copy to Paul Gordon. The Commissions pages for the website would be reviewed at the next meeting and Bob Trask would provide an updated version of the history page with Kathie Stone providing the updated projects page and Irwin Kuperberg providing a page for current events.

Old Business:

Invasive project for the removal of Chervail to take place in May 2014. Irwin Kuperberg stated that a strategy was necessary. Mark Wright suggested the Burr and Burton students might be able to assist with the project. After discussion it was decided that the Youth Conservation Corp would be better suited for the job even though a fee would be charged. Kuperberg will check into the specifics of using the Youth Conservation Corp and it will be discussed again in the April meeting.

Logging report-

Committee members walked the Shamberg property to check on the logging done by John Adler. It was decided that Adler would need to return in the summer to remove wood that had been left in the brook. Mr. Twitchell stated that a pile of trees that had been cut to length were left on the Shamberg property and that he felt they were merchantable. Twitchell will follow up and determine why they were left. Members felt that when snow was gone Pingree Park needed to be inspected to make sure it had been returned to a lawn. Members discussed a complaint received from a neighbor regarding concerns that trees were being cut on her rightaway. Mr. Twitchell stated that John Adler had reported that the matter was all straightened out and they were not cutting any unmarked trees. Members expressed concern over a metal skateboard ramp that is either being stored or abandon the park property.

Projects members will approach the selectboard for funding : VT Conservation Corp to assist with invasives, Birdhouse for Shamberg property, Speaker from the Vermont Center for Eco Studies to do a talk on Bumble Bees and Monarch Butterflies, and additional invasives work by a licensed applicator to assist with the Knotweed.

New Business:

Mark Wright stated that after press releases there was still no response on the Big Tree Hunt. He felt that there was not enough interest to continue. Members decided that encouraging people to report findings of large trees on the website would be sufficient.

Kathy Stone advised members that she wanted the commission to apply for the AVCC's Tiny Grant Program and offered to apply on the commission's behalf. LCC would be applying for a grant for invasives management.

It was decided that the commission had no Town Meeting day stories to submit to the AVCC.

Mark Wright reported to the commission on the interesting Bumble Bee Talk he attended at the Norwich Inn. The speaker was from the Vermont Center for eco studies and Mr. Wright suggested that the commission find a venue and look into sponsoring a talk in Londonderry. Members felt it would be better to include more species than bumble bees to boost attendance and Wright will look into the possibilities. Dates discussed for sponsoring the talk were April 22nd, May 13th or May 14th. Mark to provide Peggy with info for press release.

Wright would also like to have Chris River come and give a talk on the Bicknell Thrush and the Vermont Center for Eco Studies work with the bird and it's migration from Stratton Mountain to the Dominican Republic. The talk could take place in the fall of 2014.

No update was available on the Prouty burn in April. The burn is weather dependant. Members discussed putting up the new birdhouses for the Tree Swallows and Bluebirds before the burn happens in April. Bob Trask will write up press release regarding burn and Peggy will distribute to the Press.

Mark Wright advised the commission people wishing to buy the Noor's property had approached him regarding the right of way going through the property wanting to know if the Town would be willing to give up the right of way. Twitchell advised members that in the last conversation with the Noors it was left that they would get back to the Town with an monetary offer for the right-of-way and that they had not done so. Commission members felt that it was important to receive something for giving up the right-of-way and that the Town should not have to bear the legal cost of the deed change.

Wildlife:

Pine grosbeaks, robin, barred owl, raven, deer, ruff grouse, turkey, chipmunk, black squirrel, grey squirrel, gold finches, cedar wax wings, red wing blackbirds.

The next meeting will be April 17th, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

Irwin Kuperberg made a motion to adjourn at 8:00p.m. Kathy Stone seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Russell

Approved: _____ Robert Trask, Secretary