

Conservation_Minutes_8.15.2019

Attending: Linda Lembke, Bill Jewell, Marli Rabinowitz, Bevan Quinn, Karen Murphy, Michael Becker

Not attending: Rory Lincoln, Linda Hecker, Steve Soszynski, Susan Bonthron

Meeting called to order at 5:35.

The July 18, 2019 minutes were approved.

Guilford Fair Preparations EAB Info

Marli applied for a space for our table and will set up Sunday morning. We decided that we do not have to have a commissioner at the table at all times, but instead will have information for fairgoers, including bark and branch of an ash tree to aid in identifications. Handouts will also be available.

Ash tree inventory update: Protocols for the ash tree inventory along town roads and town property have been completed with guidance from Elise Schadler of Vermont Forest, Parks & Recreation and in coordination with our Town Administrator and Town Road Commissioner/Tree Warden. Commissioners have begun work on the inventory with a goal of completing it by the end of October. Inventory results will be presented to the Select board at that time

Natural Resources Inventory:

Several property owners in the area selected by Patti Smith (BEEC) have been contacted. We divided up the remaining properties and their owners to contact to receive permission to have Patti inventory their land.

Communications:

- Bill reported on the Connectivity project and that various committees have been established to do the work going forward.

 1. The Green River Watershed Alliance along with the Green River Preservation Trust is hosting a Green River Day Sunday August 18.
 2. Emily Davis from the WRC has applied for a grant to extend the GRWA's work into the towns of Leyden, Colrain and Greenfield MA. A geomorphology study was done in the MA section of the Green River.
 3. Marie Caduto is encouraging us to apply for a higher classification for the Green River.

Trails:

We still want to extend the Weeks Forest Carriage Trail. Linda L, Karen and Bevan tentatively explored a trail last year. We need to contact the New England Forestry Foundation to determine where and when the next logging will take place.

Other Business:

The "Welcome to Guilford" sign on Route 5 is in need of maintenance. Michael Becker will share this with the Select board.

Linda Lembke reported that the Dennison property in Halifax (1200 acres) will soon be listed for sale. This property is vital for habitat connectivity. Hogback Mountain in Marlboro, Weeks Forest in Guilford, and the Nature Conservancy in Dummerston were suggested as possible conservation models. We will pass these suggestions on to the Green River Watershed Alliance and the Windham Connectivity Collaborative.

Next meeting is September 19 at 5:30 at the town office.

Meeting adjourned at 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Murphy
Secretary Guilford Conservation Commission