

**Town of Londonderry
Conservation Commission**

MINUTES

Thursday, August 15, 2024

Present: Helen Hamman, Gary Hedman, Irwin Kuperberg, Jane MacKugler, Sunny Wright

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:10pm
2. There were no additions or deletions to the agenda
3. Helen moved to approve the July minutes. It was seconded by Jane and the motion passed by unanimous vote.
4. Old Business
 - a. Pollinator Garden – The pollinator sign was erected on Saturday morning with Irwin and Jane in attendance.
 - b. Wastewater Project – The Dufresne group submitted the proposed plan for the sewage plant at the Prouty Land. It will occupy a sizeable area near the Pollinator Garden and one or more of the buildings may impact the Pollinator Garden somewhat. To accommodate the schedule of available funding the North Village project is moving at a slower pace.
 - c. Natural resources inventory- Gary contacted Walter Poleman, Head of the Field Naturalist Program at UVM, for guidance on how to structure student led natural resources inventory. There will be a team meeting in one week to discuss cost, timing and to assess the realistic expectations for the program. The inventory will inform future consideration of development review.
 - d. Events
 - i. On Saturday September 14 we will conduct a river walk by Haley Kolding to discuss the geomorphology of the West River, beginning with an informational table at the Farmer's Market in the morning. The walk would begin at 1pm and proposed stops are the Mill Pond, the Utley Brook, Prouty Land and ending at the WR Trailhead. There will also be a stop at the South Londonderry bridge to talk about the mill pond that used to be there.
 - ii. Our Vermont Surroundings in 4 Seasons, Climate Change- Jane has no news from Bill McKibben who has not yet replied.
 - iii. Ice Age in Vermont- Helen will follow up again with Robert Badger
 - iv. Bear update- tabled until Steve's return
 - v. Foraging and Cooking Up Edible Plants- tabled until Steve's return to find out if he contacted Wes Genovart
 - vi. Discussion of these possible talks were further tabled for later in the year we can focus on the current programs: Future talks: Fox, Owl prowling, Slow birding, Agroecology
5. Conservation News
 - a. The Windham Regional Woodlands Association (WRWA) will conduct a walk on Hogback Mountain on Saturday, August 24 called 'Seeing plants - medicinal, bizarre, or just plain lovely' featuring. Allison Turner, a Doctor of Pharmacognosy (the study of drugs obtained from plants and other natural sources). She will explain the

medicinal uses for several local plants, both according to folklore and to modern science.

- b. A restoration project is underway to restore the historic stone arch bridge in West Townshend.
 - c. On August 6, 2024, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued an emergency order to stop the use and sale of dimethyl tetrachloroterephthalate (DCPA), also known as Dacthal, a weedkiller used on crops like broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, and onions. The EPA says that DCPA can cause serious health risks to fetuses, including low birth weight, impaired brain development, decreased IQ, and impaired motor skills. The EPA's action is the first time in almost 40 years that the agency has used its emergency suspension authority.
 - d. Companies are now deploying alternative methods of carbon sequestration in farming by fungi or volcanic dust over crops .
 - e. Spain is planning an octopus farm. In the US a ban on octopus farming has been proposed in the Senate.
 - f. Bats
6. New Business
- a. Change in West river sampling- Irwin was informed by Jeremy Shrauf that our West River water sampling volunteer was unable to carry out the last 2 sampling sessions of the summer. Jane and Steve have stepped in to provide sampling on those days.
 - b. Jane was asked by Marge Fish of the Parks Board if the Conservation Commission would get some tree/plant ID signs for the hiking trail at Pingree. We decided to table this item so that it could be discussed with all members present.
7. Wildlife sightings – Woodchuck, coyote, hummingbirds, bear, mallards, great blue heron, loon, porcupine, red eft, red tailed hawk

Next meeting: September 19