

Starksboro Conservation Commission
6:00 pm, remote meeting
February 27, 2023
Minutes

Present: Margi Gregory, Jan McCleery, Robert Turner and pending member, Jennifer Lovett

1. The August 2022 and January 2023 minutes were approved by unanimous vote

2. Updates

Jennifer's appointment to the commission is pending a meeting by the selectboard. Their action is anticipated before our next meeting.

Jan, with help from Jennifer drafted and submitted a letter to Bernie Pacquette supporting the concept of a statewide "invasive species day," intended to bring awareness to this topic.

Robert reported on his outreach to the Alicia Daniels on the possibility of getting a team of students to take on the development of an invasive species management plan for the Cota lands, particularly the Creekside Trail and Ballfield areas. Alicia reached out to the Vermont Master Naturalist (VMN) program, a group of trained volunteers who support this type of work in communities. The most promising responses came from a VMN in Monkton, Brent Meacham, who offered to help and also thought he could muster additional VMN colleagues. The Addison County RPC also offered both manpower and technical support.

Action: Robert will confer with Brent and propose a time when interested parties could meet and develop an action plan.

Jennifer reported on her conversation with the Starksboro Public Library on a proposed public presentation and field trip on beavers. This will move forward for a time in the spring. John Aberth, a friend of Jennifer's give his presentation on beaver rehabilitation.

Poison parsnip pulling at Cota field will continue this year. We will gear up for starting at the end of May, depending on how much growth is evident then.

Jan reported on her conversation with Edorah Frazer, Robinson principal, about school/Cons comm collaboration. There is some interest, but only one, 5/6 science teacher (Emily) with whom we have already talked. Edorah will explore the opportunities and get back to us.

The kiosk is 46"x46". We may need plexiglass to protect the exhibits. The faces will need work.

3. Community gathering at the Creekside Trail

We hope to plan a gathering recognizing volunteers and CC members past, tentatively scheduled on Saturday, May 20. Numerous ideas were discussed including having edible invasives on the menu, poison parsnip volunteer recruitment, and a short educational program. We will plan this more fully at the March meeting.

Actions: Robert will contact Rebecca Elder about scheduling our use of the pavilion. Robert will reach out to the lead researcher on the flood monitoring, Rebecca Diehl, to see if she'd be interested in giving a brief presentation.

Adjournment @ 7:28pm. Next meeting scheduled for 6:30 pm Monday, March 27 at the Library.