

Starksboro Conservation Commission

Monday, August 21, 2023

Unapproved

The meeting was called to order by chair, Margi Gregory at 7:12 pm following a delicious *providential* meal that members present, Jan McCleery, Jennifer Lovett, Alice Weston Rooney and Margi, thoroughly enjoyed consuming. Robert's return flight was delayed, and Peg was unable to attend. They missed having a great meal and we missed having them both at our August meeting.

The minutes of the June 26 meeting were read and unanimously approved as written.

Calendar of events:

Tuesday, September 5, 5:00-7:00 @ LaRue property, transplanting Blue Vervain (Margi, Jan, and Alice) to Southern Riparian parcel. (Margi to check with Robbin La Rue prior to 5th)

Wednesday, September 6, 12:30-2:30 @ Creekside Trail, PPAC Steering Committee meeting. (Margi to lead a search for Monarch butterflies).

Saturday, September 9, 1:00, Scavenger Hunt @ Creekside Trail, (Margi, Theresa, Alice) Jan to notify Eudora so info can be sent out in Friday folders. *Check kiosk discussion in text following the calendar of events.

Monday, September 25, 5:30-7:00 @SPL, Conservation Commission monthly meeting.

Saturday, October 14, TBA @SPL, Celebration of the Life of Liz Fairchild.

Friday, October 20, 2:30-8:30, Play Every Town project- Gideon Parker's Piano Crawl in Starksboro (4 locations CCC, FBC, Town Hall, Meeting House) *Check 4 Winds fund raiser discussion in text following the calendar. Also Connor Timmons last weekend at CCC.

Saturday, October 21, community event TBD @ Town Center pavilion. Peg asked for our preference on dates Oct 7 or Oct 21. We do not like Oct 7 as it is a holiday weekend. (Margi volunteered to join Peg's committee in the planning for this fall's community event).

Saturday, November 4, time & place TBD, Conservation Summit of county CC's. Jennifer agreed to represent Starksboro in planning the event with Heidi Willis (Salisbury CC) along with two other representatives of Addison County CC's. I have shared our members contact info w/Heidi. Margi will be out of town that day. This date, the first Saturday of November, over several decades pre-Covid, is the day we hosted the Harvest Supper fund raiser for 4 Winds!!

Discussion topics:

Trail Kiosk- Robert has acquired a waterproof booklet however, we suggest a delay in installing it on the kiosk. The installation of a hinged plexiglass panel prior to the Saturday, September 9th scavenger hunt is our highest priority. Steve Rooney is willing to help Robert move on the purchasing and installation of plexiglass by the Scavenger Hunt event on Sept 9th. Members present felt it is highly important to have a map, information on the property, Lewis Creek, and the Creekside and Herb Trails promptly and permanently on public display at the trailhead.

Fund raising

Four Winds needs to raise an additional \$200-\$300 dollars in support of programming at Robinson School. Possibilities of how to help in that effort; (1) set out a basket for free will donations at each piano crawl concert site (2) prepare and sell cookies at all sites. (3) raise funds at the October community event. Fund raising will be on the agenda for September meeting or sooner at a special meeting date TBD.

Invasive Inventory

Margi plans to contact Robert to set a date for a meeting focused solely on developing a management plan for invasive species using data from recently conducted inventory.

Committee Charge

It was agreed that we as members of a committee appointed by the Select Board need a better understanding of the role of the Conservation Commission in conducting the business of the town around conservation issues and outdoor recreation. We plan to request SB clarification on the protocol and procedures the committee is to follow. Jan will circulate a draft letter to SB for our editing after reviewing (the town plan, SCC mission, etc.)

Meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm.

Drafted by J. McCleery