

Starksboro Conservation Commission

Agenda for June Meeting

Monday, June 30, 2025

Starksboro Library, 5:30 – 7pm

1. Visitor's comments - no visitors
2. Review minutes - May 26 minutes approved
3. Review and vote on [bylaws](#)
 - Robert gave background - Herb Olson reviewed and gave suggestions, mostly to simplify. Jennifer asked about the inclusion of architectural and cultural resources being included. Could cooperate with the Historical Society.
 - #1 Duties and Mission, there is suggested adding the mission. Will revise the mission at a future meeting and correct the mission posting on the town website.
 - #2 Membership - question about whether someone on the commission could be not re-appointed without just cause. Could a member request a public hearing? Margi would like to look into clarifying the wording.
 - #3 Officers - #4 the treasurer (not clerk) should also prepare the financial report
 - #4 Meetings -4a bottom: Strike from town clerk, Selectboard and Planning Commission and put filed with the town administrators and shall be available to the public on town website. 4b notify the chair not the clerk if you are going to miss a meeting.
 - #5 Committees - fine
 - #6 Operating Expenses - paragraph 2, 1st line, "call" should be "called"
 - #7 Public Representation - fine
 - #8 Amendments - fine
4. Creekside Trail Maintenance

- Report on dead trees along trail - a few trees in danger of falling onto the trail, maybe 3 trees. With a partner, Robert can get them down.
 - Report on poison parsnip and other invasives' removal
 - Alice will work on cutting blossoms, not necessarily digging up, on the north end of the lower trail.
 - No more formal Thursday night invasives removal events for now.
 - Discussion about whether there could be communication with the state about mowing state roads before poison parsnip goes to seed.
 - Planning for Middlebury College Community Engagement Center student orientation, Saturday, Sept 6, 1-4. - We will host a group of students to come to Cota Lands and Creekside Trail for an orientation to the scope of the work. Have some food, talk about the work, and do a little work. Set up for two more work sessions: September 27th and November 1st. 1:00-4:00.
 - AVCC – additional signs are available. Which do we want?
 - “Clean your gear” ordered and arrived. Will put up at kiosk at some point.
 - Sign for buckthorn removal area (black plastic bags) - Margi will make this sign and laminate.
 - Bench for Jennifer Turner. Plaque? Woodburning her name on the bench. Robin Andreason (Pollinator Pathway Addison County) has a connection to someone who does woodburn. Or Robin Laroux. Jan will ask them.
 - Suspension bridge – updates and planning for July and August work - The bridge is ready to be worked on. Robert will look into contracting and procurement issues. Will check in with some folks about design/structure and anchoring. There is some brush maintenance to do.
5. Update on Municipal Planning Grant - grant for doing community land trust work and gathering information about housing. Consultant to research community land trusts. Mechanism to promote affordable housing in Starksboro. Potential consultants have been interviewed, both are very

qualified. Next Wednesday the findings presented to Planning Commission. Once the consultant is hired, there will be three public engagements to discuss findings. The work will happen over summer and fall.

6. 2nd Butterfly Atlas event, Monday July 21 at Starksboro Library
 - How to identify butterflies and enter data

Next Agenda:

- Bylaws - with Robert's edits
- Discussion around potential role in the Norris project on Rte 117 Up South. Could we make an advisory statement to the DRB about protecting the class 2 Wetland. Wildlife crossing. Hallock Brook. What priority conversation area should the area be classified as? Traffic study, is the residential access on a dangerous section of the road - blind access? Vermont Natural Resources Conservation Atlas may have information about species in that area. Has there been a wetland delineation? Jennifer will do some research and bring things for our work.
- Suspension Bridge Update.
- Next meeting July 28th.

Town of Starksboro is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Conservation Commission

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

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