

Bristol Conservation Commission (BCC)

Minutes

Nov 10, 2022

6:00 pm

Location: Holley Hall conference room, zoom option*

Members Present: Carolyn Dash, Chair, (CD), Kristen Underwood, Vice Chair, (VC), Alex Smith (AS), Zelig Smith (ZS), Helen Young (HY), Nancy Morrison (NM), Jono Chapin (JC)
6:24 arrival

Members of Public: Freddie Cannon (FC) 6:17 arrival, Jim Quaglino (JQ)

I Call to order: 6:00 pm at Holley Hall

The November meeting of the BCC was called to order at 6:01.

II Public Comment Period

No comments were made by members of the public.

III Addition of Items to the Agenda

No new Items were added to the agenda.

IV Review and approval of minutes from Oct 13 meeting

AS made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 13th BCC meeting. NM seconded the motion. The motion passed and the minutes were approved.

V Correspondence

No correspondence took place since the October meeting.

VI Old Business

A. Conservation Commission Membership-

- a. The BCC has two membership positions available. CD put out a front porch forum post. She will put out another.

B. Updating wildlife maps

- a. Wildlife tracking and map creation discussion with Middlebury College biologist, Dr. Alexis Mychajliw
 - i. Mychajliw is a professor at Middlebury College in the biology and environmental science departments. Her background is in mammalogy and she is a member of the Vermont Scientific Advisory Group.
 - ii. The BCC explained to Mychajliw that we are hoping to update the wildlife maps for the 2025 town plan.
 - iii. Mychajliw believes that she will be able to get students involved in wildlife tracking in Bristol to make this happen. This would probably be a combination of independent research projects, thesis projects, and full class work.
 - iv. Mychajliw emphasized the importance of engaging her students in community research, sending them to talk to local people about the land and community interests. This would include community information gathering as well. This could include hunters with game cameras and sighting information.

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- v. Middlebury College geography department could also be involved. Mychajliw said that there are students who become highly skilled in GIS and could potentially take the information from her students and make maps, potentially interactive maps.
 - vi. Mychajliw discussed connecting with UVM professors who would have undergraduate and masters students who may be interested in this project as well.
 - vii. One way to get the community involved and trained would be through a bioblitz- an event with a larger group of students and community members coming together to gather information and learn how to do so on their own.
- b. Discuss quote from the Tracking Connection
 - i. Discussion of the quote was tabled until a list of priorities can be discussed at the next meeting.
 - c. Discuss next steps and funding options
 - i. The BCC will come back next month ready to make a list of priorities to discuss, which will allow us to form an idea of what work can be done by students and what work should be hired out.

C. Parks Updates: Eagle, Memorial, Sycamore, Saunders River Access-

- a. FC gave an update about the current state of the parks. The boy scouts cleaned Sycamore and Memorial Parks. There seems to be a recurring dumping issue at Sycamore Park. This includes bags of household trash left near the parking lot. It also includes trash around the park. There is a site that seems to have been used as a campsite and camping items were left there by whoever used it. No overnight camping is permitted at the park.
- b. There is a bench at Sycamore Park that has a rotting board and needs to be fixed.

D. Edith Stock Fund:

- a. The current balance of the account is \$3940.64. While the fund was originally set up to help the birds of Bristol, the BCC has some flexibility about how to use it. The BCC will reach out to the audubon society for ideas. The funds could also be used to pay for parts of the wildlife mapping. Other ideas include wood duck boxes at Bristol Pond and bat boxes.
- b. In the spirit of helping birds and wildlife, decreasing the amount of mowing that takes place on town properties was discussed.

E. Policy on reporting minutes

- a. In a follow up to last month's discussion about how thoroughly conversations should be covered in the minutes, the BCC reached out to the town to see how well our minutes were in compliance with the open meeting laws and whether or

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not they were in line with other committees and commissions. We were informed that our minutes currently cover all that they need to and we will continue on with our current methods.

VIII Events

No upcoming events

IX Next Meeting:

The December 2022 BCC meeting will take place on the 8th at 6PM at Holley Hall with a zoom option.

X Adjournment

AS made a motion to adjourn the meeting. HY seconded. The November 2022 BCC meeting was adjourned at 7:30PM.

A recording of the entire meeting is available at <http://bristolvt.org/fy-2022-2023-meetings/>