Bristol Conservation Commission (BCC)
Minutes
Dec 8, 2022
6:00 pm
Location: Holley Hall conference room, zoom option*

Members Present: Carolyn Dash, Chair, (CD), Kristen Underwood, Vice Chair, (VC), Helen Young (HY), Nancy Morrison (NM), Jono Chapin (JC)

Members of Public: Susan Smiley (SS), Jim Quaglino (JQ)

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

The December meeting of the BCC was called to order at 6:00.

II Public Comment Period

Susan Smiley from the New Haven Conservation Commission is also getting ready to do a wildlife study and was interested in what we were doing in Bristol for our study. New Haven has had some training done. We discussed an option of doing larger in person training with surrounding towns.

III Addition of Items to the Agenda

No new Items were added to the agenda.

IV Review and approval of minutes from Nov 10th meeting

KU made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 10th BCC meeting. JC 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. She also emailed alumni but hasn't received a response yet.

B. **Updating wildlife maps**

a. Homework was to come up with our priorities and purpose for conducting the wildlife study.

i. CD Shared a document with her list of priorities

ii. HY emailed Jeff Howard a Geography professor at Middlebury College who has done Habitat studies around Middlebury. In response to the question of how he did it. He said he used GIS and detailed maps for Middlebury. It was then suggested to bring in Geography/ GIS students to assist with the map work.

the maps and results of the study to inform new homeowners what animals or habitats they may have on their land.

iii. AS Emailed in his thoughts. A lot can be done with topo maps. We can also find people who can connect us with trail cameras. As an actionable item to use

iv. KU actional deliverable was to use the maps and data collected and pass it on to the planning and zoning commission for them to use when determining new and existing planning and zoning projects.

v. CD hiring students for a summer internship would need to be done in February.

vi. SS New Haven started with 10 identified crossings but cut it down to 3 maps with the help of cameras and tracks.The end goal for these maps is to be given to the planning commission to inform and give attention to the animal crossings.

vii. JC suggested Regional Planning as a great resource to towns. We could make our findings available to them.

Viii. KU shared the maps that are in the Bristol town plan. The maps were done in 2002 by the Lewis Creek Assoc. These maps could be used as a starting point and should be made available to any students helping with the mapping.

ix. HY one of the priorities is education and would like to use students as much as we can. With potential for training for citizens to do tracking.

x. CD is going to share our list of priorities with Alexis and Jeff and discuss with them their ideas for next steps and joining a future meeting.

c. Discuss next steps and funding options

i. The members of the BBC will continue to look into what grants are available to help fund the wildlife study.

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

No park updates .

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.

i.Other suggested ways of using that money were: Bird boxes, updating the kiosk at Sycamore Park, Pollinator Garden, Controlling the knot weed, and to save it for future projects.

b. In the spirit of helping birds and wildlife, decreasing the amount of mowing that takes place on town properties was discussed.

i.. No mow May Campaign was suggested

VIII Events

a. The Annual report is due soon. ZS to create a first draft and then have the BBC edit it.

IX Next Meeting:

The January 2023 BCC meeting will take place on the 12th at 6PM at Holley Hall with a zoom

option.

X Adjournment

JC made a motion to adjourn the meeting. KU seconded. The December 2022 BCC meeting was adjourned at 7:15PM.

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