

Craftsbury Conservation Commission
August 15, 2022 Draft Minutes

Attending: Liz Kegl, Diane Morgan, Elinor Osborn, Steve Moffatt, Farley Brown
Absent: Ashley Nunery, Brian Machesney, Colin Netzley, Susan Houston (selectboard liaison)

A motion was made by Elinor to approved the minutes from the July 22nd, and seconded by Liz. The minutes were approved.

June Cook is resigning from the Craftsbury Conservation Commission and a discussion took place about filling her seat on the commission. Steve will post notice of the vacant seat on Front Porch Forum (FPF) and ask for folks to contact him if they are interested. Names mentioned as potential recommendations to the selectboard: Kent Young, Joe Houston, Mike Poisson, and Ben Kruger.

Update on the Big Tree Contest:

- Entry forms are at the Craftsbury Public Library
- Prizes are set
- Posters are going around town
- Ashley has posted information about the contest on FPF
- There will be a table at the Craftsbury Farmers Market on October 8th to celebrate the winner
- The Craftsbury Municipal Forest Committee id interested in gathering the information submitted by landowners
- Not sure of the categories yet

Update on the Knotweed Demonstration Site:

- 5 boulders were moved out of the way of mowing and the ground was leveled.
- The Correctional Facility crew will weed wack around the site on a weekly when they come to mow the boat access
- Steve will take care of a limb down on a willow
- Steve fell off the "cliff" and was okay
- Elinor contacted DEC asking for permission to place ¼ inch mesh at the site to slow down the growth of the knotweed. Probably 5 foot by 5 foot area.

Update on the motion lighting at the Kingdom Community Wind, Green Mountain Power:

- Brian and Katherine Sims contacted the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to find out how the public can learn more about the lighting issues on the Lowell Mountain wind towers. Kyle Landis-Marinello (PUC clerk) said the PUC cannot share the information because the issue is being investigated. It is not public information right now.
- GMP and PUC met on July 21.
- Brian instructed GMP to respond to our inquiry on August 8th. No response as of yet.
- Matt Krebs of the Green Mountain Club has asked to be kept in the loop regarding this matter.

ARPA Funding Ideas:

- Brian attended the ARPA group information meeting in July,
- Applications for ARPA funding are due September 6th.
- We discussed potential ARPA funding ideas for the Conservation Commission - hardware cloth, assistance with the emerald ash borer survey
- No decision to apply for ARPA funding
- Steve will ask Susie about a contingency fund for conservation projects

October 17th Conservation Commission meeting will host Jens Hilke, Conservation Planner with the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife. Jens will discuss Act 171 (forested blocks/wildlife connectivity blocks). Brian will be in touch with Jens.

September 19th meeting agenda will include development of an advertising plan for Jens Hilke talk; Big Tree Contest update; new members; and updates from working groups.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted by Farley Brown