

BAKERSFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

73rd Meeting, June 29, 2015, 1 PM

Unapproved Minutes

Present for a Quorum: Dorothy Allard, Alice Foote, Mary Lumbra, Carolyn Bronz, Larry Krygier, Eric Jessiman

Call to Order: D Allard, 1:06 PM

Approve minutes of June 1, 2015 meeting: Approved (A Foote, E Jessiman) with minor change.

Financial report: Latest report shows \$2,686.76 on hand. But there are debits that haven't shown up yet, it is estimated about \$2,500 in our account. L Krygier turned in a receipt for the picnic table paint - \$45.30.

Shattuck Mountain Trail Walk: There were 6 people on the walk. Weather was good but it was very wet in the woods, and mosquitos were bad. It was too wet at the lookout to sit. Quite a few people expressed interest in going but had other engagements. D Allard went up next day to look for peregrines but saw none. Paul Madden thinks they are nesting on Checkerberry Ridge, but not in their usual spot. The babies should be fledging first week in July. There is a beaver pond up on top of the ridge, called Saddle Pond, a beautiful spot.

Progress on Upcoming Summer Events:

- No progress on the loop trail
- Kiosk - Alice got some laminated photos from Missisquoi Wildlife Refuge and there is information on both sides of the kiosk now. She got 3 maps from Kathy Westcom. Larry put up the list of contributors. A thank you for the Missisquoi National Wildlife refuge should go up also. She will add the logo (the footprint) to the kiosk. We need to do tree bark and tree shape identification - good for the fall. A pocket guide with animal tracks could be enlarged and posted. This little project was started, A Foote will finish and post.
- Music: the Saturday event (Doane Family reunion) was held at the Historical Society instead of the Town Park, because of the threatening weather.
- The Emerald Ash Borer poster - A Foote will hang it in the Historical Society Building. E Jessiman had a question about monitoring devices to detect the bugs. These devices/traps will not prevent the insects from harming the ash trees, D Allard said.

Bakersfield Town Park other business: D Allard got a call from the VT Housing and Conservation Board, which holds an easement on the Park. Every year they come and observe if we are complying with this easement and they will be coming next week. Ma is doing a good job mowing, L Krygier reports, "I like what he doesn't mow". P Evans is cutting the burdocks that keep coming back around the barn. There is a little butternut tree next to the barn that will need to be moved; A Foote will take this tree. The portalet donor list is up.

Community Trails: D Allard showed an article about Renee Reiner, who with her husband owns Phoenix Books, and who bought property in Bakersfield adjacent to the town gravel pit. They will play a role in permanent conservation of this land, which will be bequeathed to the VT Land Trust. We will be speaking with them about possibilities for collaboration and building a trail.

Upcoming Event Reminders: Mid-july, E Jessiman will do a 570 mile paddle from Buffalo through the Mohawk Valley and the Erie Canal. Each one of the locks is open as a museum, they are really beautiful, one or two have their own power station. He did it last year; it's a wonderful trip. On his sail are the words, Autism Awareness, and Eric and his grandson made contacts with many people over this issue. The money they raised will be donated to NCSS. The website for this event is paddlingforautism.com

Announcements, Public Comment and Other Business: L Krygier and A Foote went to a Christmas tree meeting and a man there had done all the weather patterns from the 40's calculating out to 2050, with rainfall amounts and temperatures, showing how the weather has changed and the present global warming trend. He is working with farmers; what's going to hurt us is the growing season is expanding, but the frost pattern will still zap the early buds. We got 10 inches of rain in month of June, and there is heavy deposition of soil and contaminants into Lake Champlain. The long term outlook is a huge change for Vermont.

Sights and Sounds of the Season—reports from your neighborhood: D Allard has seen two woodchucks. It seems like a bad year for them. They're digging big holes, L Krygier has shot 3 of them. The crows are ripping up the birds, there are no birds anymore on L Krygier's property. People have seen snapping turtles on the roads.

Date for next meeting: Monday, July 27, 1 pm

Adjourn: 2:37