

BAKERSFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
99th Meeting, Thursday, November 30, 2017, 1 PM
Unapproved Minutes

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

Call to Order: D Allard, 1:06 pm

Approve Minutes of October meeting: Approved as written.

Financial report, Mary Lumbra: No change - \$2,449.28 on hand.

Bakersfield Community Trails: Hunters are using the Shattuck Mountain Trail. Asking permission and treating the land respectfully.. There are 5 or 6 that come every year. Fish and Game officials were checking cars in town for loaded rifles; several were caught and fined. Dorothy has been on the trails up there; they're not bad considering all the wind we've had. However it would be good to do some clearing. Discussion - regular chain saws vs. battery saws, ease of use, and noise.

Bakersfield Town Park: On the Town Park Trail, at least 6 hardwood trees were down and blocking the trail, Larry reported. Pat Evans had said he would be cleaning them up. Eric mentioned we should look at the stumps of those downed trees to see if it's beavers, or wind. Larry will follow up on this. There is water down there from all the beaver activity and they are moving up the stream taking down trees along their way. Larry took care of the rotted picnic table. There is another table which may be able to be saved next year. Alice volunteers that if we have an open winter, she will be happy to do outside work around the Town Park. Larry says the environment's changing so fast, he can't keep up with it.

Discussion: Posting of Minutes on Website: Carolyn spoke with Kathy Westcom who said she would post the minutes on the Town website going forward. Carolyn will send them to Kathy in PDF format for ease of posting.

Upcoming Events, Announcements, Other Business: We did not do the invasive species removal this year. The birds spread these around so it's always something that needs to be done.

Sights and Sounds of the Season: Larry reported there was a bat in his house just before Thanksgiving. He couldn't find it and it caused some anxiety with some of his family members. A couple of days later his brother caught it in a net and let it go free into the pines. So, there's proof that there is at least one bat in town. They should have been hibernating, so it will probably die. There's nothing to eat at this time of year for bats. There was no white around its nose. Eric found a mosquito outside a few weeks ago. Mary dumped out her shop vac, full of live mice! They had crawled in through the hose. Eric went to the Selectboard meeting to report that he had talked to fish and game about the beavers, concerned because if the dam is torn up, the beavers are going to die. Discussion about the fact there were no beavers at all in VT in the early 1900's; 20 were brought in and the population exploded in the next 20 years. In the Free Press last Sunday was a very good article about how anything on 4 legs, plus turkeys, eagles, etc., were wiped out by the late 1800's, and how some of these populations were brought back. *Water, A Natural History*, written by a VT author, tells the story of how the beavers help the water table, and out west, how prairie dogs and buffalo do similar beneficial effects. Rainbow trout are native here and can easily be fished to extinction, as happened in a local stream by a person who seems oblivious to the result of his actions. Alice brought in a dried specimen of a plant from Maine, what she called similar to a foam flower. It has little red berries (that are high in vitamin C) and a hairy root. It's a Canada mayflower and it is indigenous to here, Dorothy says. Alice showed a Guide to Nature in Winter, a book that helps identify winter flora. Dorothy has a book about weeds in winter which she will share. Eric mentioned again the big erratic down 108 towards Jeffersonville just before the big curve (Fletcher Station): you go across the bridge on the right and then it's on the right side of the road. It's big and covered with moss. North Cambridge Road. The tornado went near there a few years back and took a barn down. Alice told of her overwhelming experience standing near to Gary when he shot that moose in September in the Allagash. She was very close when it happened. The guide knew what he was doing, and to her, it was like a TV show. Dorothy has had snowshoe hares up at her place. Coyotes are changing and becoming more wolf like, Eric reported.

Date for next meeting: Monday, January 8, 2018, 1 pm

Adjourn: 2:10 pm