

BAKERSFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
92nd Meeting, April 3, 2017, 1 PM (March Meeting)
Unapproved Minutes

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

Call to Order: D Allard, 1:05 pm

YEARLY ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING:

Election of Officers: Dorothy Allard was nominated (LK, ML) to continue as chair. Approved. Commissioners (Larry Krygier, Mary Lumbra and Carolyn Bronz terms expire March 2017) All three Commissioners agreed to stay on for another 3 year term. Election of Officers: Larry Krygier made the motion to retain the current slate of officers: Mary Lumbra, treasurer; Pat Evans, Vice Chair; Carolyn Bronz, Clerk. Approved.

Approve Minutes of February 27th meeting: Motion to approve (CB, ML) Approved as written.

Financial report: \$2486.46 on hand. No change. Dorothy will check with Sue Tillotson on why the \$100 has not yet been transferred from the BCCC account, which should be closed by now.

Review Mission and Rules of Procedure: These were last amended in 2013. Commissioners read through the document. One of our original goals was to establish and manage a Town Forest. That may happen in the future. One of our functions is to give input into the Town Plan, but we did not do that for the current version which was approved on March 7, 2017. We looked at what the Town Plan decided about wind farms - these facilities were not banned, just must obtain a Certificate of Public Good. Solar arrays which connect to the grid also must go through this process. However, if they are totally off the grid, this requirement may not apply. Membership: if members miss 3 consecutive meetings, they are deemed to be inactive. Then, they no longer are counted for a quorum. We have one inactive member now, and 7 active ones. Motion to approve this document without any changes (ML, AF) Approved.

Review 2016 Activities and set Activities for 2017:

- May 7, 9 am: Town Park Cleanup day. Larry Krygier is in charge.
- Wildpaths activities monitoring animal crossings will continue: Mary Lumbra, Dorothy Allard Tucker Malone and Alice Foote were involved last year. Alice will not be involved this year. Tucker may not be around but will participate for the time being.
- The Mushroom Walk will not happen.
- For 4th of July, the date will be Saturday the 1st - the decision about if we want to do something on this day was postponed.
- Rookery Walk - Tucker mentioned he missed the walk to the rookery last year. That event was private, by invitation. Dorothy will ask the owner if we could come again.
- Trails in town - Alice talked about the Rail Trail from East Fairfield down past Lost Nation area toward Jeffersonville - the trail has been worked on but the bridge is out. Larry has walked from Lost Nation area south toward Jeffersonville. He said most of the bridges are fixed. Dorothy also walked from Whitney Road south; you can't get through easily (dog wouldn't go). But southwest of that, it's fixed, though still with gaps. The brush was cut. It's remote and beautiful. A long discussion followed, commissioners looked at maps and wondered about adding these trails to our "list" of town trails. There is a group (Lamoille Valley Rail Trail) that we could contact. A good project for our Commission would be to raise money to sponsor the needed bridge repairs. We had talked in a previous meeting about the Bakersfield Gap trail, the Gauthier property. Carolyn will try to find out more about access to this.

- Taking Inventory - Alice mentioned she would like to do an inventory of forests/natural areas in the town. But it would take money; generally you have to hire a professional to do it. Biofinder: google it to come up with a set of interactive maps put out by the VT Agency of Natural Resources.
- Trail Maps - We want to make a trail map for all of our town trails.
- Bird Walk - Tucker mentioned that Bridget Butler might be persuaded to lead a bird walk through town. May to June. It could be done on the Shattuck Mtn. property.
- We need to decide about the barn/pavilion options.

Bakersfield Community Trails: Nothing new on this. Conditions are not good right now.

Bakersfield Town Park: Blue Spruce Realty declines to sponsor the Portalet this year. But the new general store owners plan to have a weekly barbecue and they might want to sponsor a month. Alice sketched a bike rack/kiosk/drinking fountain she saw on a trail in Morrisville that she thought might be a good addition to the Park. There will be more and more cyclists coming through town, using the picnic tables and the Portalet.

Sights and Sounds of the Season: Geese! Red wing blackbird at Dorothy's feeder. Grackles at Alice's. Big groups of turkeys. Sugaring has been wonderful, Tucker's family is having a great year. Dorothy shared photos from her trip to NC. There was an otter slide on her driveway.

Date for next meeting: Monday, April 24, 1 pm

Adjourn: 2:37 pm