**BAKERSFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**Unapproved Minutes, December 16, 2021, 5 PM**

**138th Meeting**

**Present for a Quorum:** Pat Evans, Alice Foote, Mary Lumbra, Larry Krygier, Maura Horne, Carolyn Bronz

**Call to Order: 5:00**

**Approve Minutes of November 18 Meeting:** Motion to approve (ML, LK) Discussion: Alice commented that Lance explained any time we want to have power in the Town Park, we need to apply for it and it would be free. There is an outlet on the big bell structure but that’s a long way for an extension cord. Motion passed.

**Financial Report – Mary Lumbra:** No changes. Balance is $3554.68. Motion to accept (LK, AF) passed.

**Possible Winter Event:** A snowshoeing/skiing event. Mary suggested the gravel pit area. The last week of February is school vacation so we might get some kids. We would have to get approval from the Selectboard. Motion: To plan a Winter snowshoe/ski event at the town Gravel Pit area during the last week of February (MH, ML). We will need to scope out the area beforehand and possibly break trail. Carolyn will get us on the Selectboard agenda for January 10. Motion passed

**Browns Pond Monitoring Project:**

* We received information on this from the NRDC. The project is monitoring the temperature differential between upstream and downstream of the dam. The Website link for this temperature monitoring project is <https://www.franklincountynrcd.org/streamwetlandrestoration> and there is a lot of information there. The monitoring project will continue this coming summer. They say there’s a lot of trout downstream. Trout like colder water and shade. Local opinions differ about whether the dam should be removed, how much difference it will make for trout and habitat. The owner doesn’t want the dam removed and its condition is not critical at this time.
* Mary asked why do so many streams have leeches now? Alice says leeches can come in on birds feet.
* In the Witchcat Falls area, where that dam was recently removed, Alice reported in an earlier meeting that the water that was draining there was red. Iron oxide? She and Gary went back in November. The water was clear, but they were disappointed to see that the stream above had eaten into the banks to a depth of about a foot on each side. The banks had been leveled off but she could not see any sign of plantings. Larry says the stream could be finding its own path, it has to settle in.

**Review Options for Trail Markers, Shattuck Mtn. Trails:** The options are paint blazes, or plastic or metal circles that would need to be screwed in or nailed on trees. Larry uses spray paint to mark boundaries. Alice will look into how trails are being blazed at Camels Hump. Consensus is that paint is probably better. We will speak to the owners also.

**Land Boardman’s Report to RiseVT;** Pat talked with Land, who said the grantors did not request him to report on the Shattuck Mountain Trail improvement project. Land thought that one of the trails has been uploaded to the AllTrails app. But searching on that app, Carolyn found there is no Bakersfield trail uploaded yet..

* There are funds are left over from the project in the amount of almost $1200.The remaining funds can be used for trail-related improvements, blazing the trails, the kiosk at the Town Park, large scale maps, brochures, uploading to AllTrails app, publicizing the trails, etc. Pat will call Land back to find out if he has GPS’d the trails and made any maps.

**Town Park, Kiosk and Barn:** The big tree that obstructed the trail is down. The kiosk will be improved in the spring. There’s no money for rehabbing the barn. We would have to do it piecemeal, like had to be done with the Historical Society. We need to go back and look at the paperwork that we got from the engineer many years ago. Either that or find someone to take it down. This will be an agenda item next meeting. Pat will go to our file and find the documents.

**Other Business**: Charging station – grants will be available sometime in 2022. Carolyn will get the information on when we can write a grant for this.

**Upcoming Event Reminders, Announcements, Public Comment:** The school children will come around town caroling on December 22 during the day.

**Sights and Sounds of the Season:** Maura has had deer in the back yard. She’s hearing lots of coyotes out back. She and her wife saw the meteor showers the other night. Pat has a new dog who loves finding dead things and feces. Carolyn saw the lunar eclipse a couple of weeks ago**.**

**Date for Next Meeting: January 20, 5 pm**

**Motion to Adjourn: (LK, ML) 6:02**