

**BAKERSFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**Minutes, Thursday April 20, 2023, 5 PM**  
**154th Meeting**

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

**Call to Order:** 5:06

**Approve Minutes of March 16 Meeting:** Motion to approve (MH, LK) Passed

**Financial Report:** Mary Lumbra. No change. \$2,129.39 Motion to approve (CB, LK) Passed

**River Soiree Report: Pat and Carolyn.** The food was great, the event was very interesting, and it was good to get together with the other local environmental groups. Entertainment by Ben Maddox, who videos underwater wildlife in the rivers and the Lake. The Missisquoi is very murky and the Trout River is clean. MRBA and Wild and Scenic are water testing, riparian tree planting, and making ongoing efforts to mitigate the runoff going into the Missisquoi.

**Carriage Barn Report: Sharon Evans. (Alice unable to attend)**

- Sharon and Alice drew up a request for ARPA funds to repair the building but were denied by the Selectboard. "We were told to look for grants first and they will match funds if we get grants. They want to know what grants we've applied for (we have not applied yet). They suggested using the Building Trades students for labor. More ARPA funds will be available in July and we can reapply. Alice felt that the Board had kind of promised to help rehab the building years ago. The town owns the building but the Selectboard does not seem interested in it". We manage the Park but can't be responsible for the building as we have no funds. Larry was involved in purchasing the Town Park land back in 2009.
- Sharon went into the Hearse House. It's really unstable, it's not safe. The joists have rotted. Who is responsible in case of injury? Larry reports that the town is covered by a VLCT insurance policy. Both buildings are unsafe and the Barn is wide open. Someone could get hurt. Sharon suggests we should try to repair it to the point where it is safe. Mike Lamphere has looked at it and he said don't worry about the foundation, get a door and some windows, close it up and paint the outside. We don't have an estimate for this.
- For the future we should be looking for grants. There's a grantwriter now (Alex Barkley) hired by the town. Larry says, what happens with a grantwriter is they take a portion of the funds. Maura will reach out to Alex to start the process of applying for grants.
- Larry was asked to look at the Hearse House. There are trees that need to be taken down near the building and they are on Town Park land. There's also a pile of junk on park land there. And the Christmas scene manger etc. It's very messy around there. Linda McCall would like us to fix the little garage in between, so that the cemetery could store mowing equipment etc. in there. She thinks it's an easy fix but again, we don't have the money for it, and we don't feel we are responsible to do this.

**Finish and Approve 2023 Project Plan:** Motion (CB, MH) to approve, Passed.

**Signs:** We need at least two signs, one for the Park (No Mow May) and one for Shattuck Mountain Trails. Motion to approve up to \$300 to cover these (ML, LK) Passed. Carolyn will contact Mountain View to get estimates and get the park sign up by early May.

**Town Park:** Pat reports beavers are active, encroaching on the base of the hill the northeast corner. It's very wet right now. We don't know where they're coming from; there are beavers at the intersection of Post Road and King also. We need to get signage on the Kiosk

**Town Trails:**

- Park trail is good. There's a down tree there which Larry will take care of on May 6. Sharon will work on creating trail maps.
- Shattuck Trail – the easement is managed by the Vermont Land Trust. Carolyn is in contact with the person there who can advise us about whether the trail can be closed by the owners for deer season.

**Other Business:** We will start having hybrid meetings. Next month we will meet at 6:30 in the Town Hall and John West will set up the Zoom for those who can't come in person.

**Upcoming Event Reminders, Announcements, Public Comment:**

- **Tree Planting Workday at the Westcoms (1695 Main St):** Tuesday April 26, 10 am. Larry and Carolyn volunteered.
- Dates for a Heron Walk and for a garden consultant from VT Community Garden Network: TBD next meeting.
- Green Up Day is May 6, Larry will get bags.

**Sights and Sounds of the Season:** Pat was at the Town Hall and there was a young surveyor doing research. He said when you look at the Town map the northeast corner boundary is not a straight line. but it should be, so that boundary might be redrawn. Larry says the tree swallows are in the nesting box and he's pretty sure he saw a bluebird. Sharon and Pat have a sad robin story: the nest keeps falling on the porch floor, looks like they've given up. Larry has a chickadee that pecked a hole near the window sill for its nest. Carolyn finally downloaded the Merlin app for birds and it's very good. Larry heard a bat scratching in the wall but found it was actually in the garbage can. It couldn't crawl out, he emptied it out and found the dead bat at the bottom. Everything is budding out and growing and changing every day!

**Date for Next Meeting: Thursday May 18. 6:30, in person at the Town Hall**  
**Adjourn: 6:08**