

**BAKERSFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**Unapproved Minutes, Thursday February 23, 2023, 5 PM**  
**152nd Meeting**

**Call to Order: 5:04 pm**

**Present for a Quorum:** Pat Evans, Alice Foote, Mary Lumbra, Carolyn Bronz

**Approve Minutes of January 19 Meeting:** Motion to Accept (ML, AF) passed

**Financial Report: Mary Lumbra:** No change. \$2,128.39 Motion to accept (CB, AF) passed.

**Snowshoe Outing Saturday March 4:** This will be at the location of the Gravel Pit property off from Egypt Road at 1 pm. Should we alert the Selectboard about this? Again, this is weather dependent. If there is enough snow, one or more of us will go the day before to scout conditions.

**Discussion on Contributing to Bioblitz events:** We will table this for the present.

**Town Park -** Discussion about No Mow May in the Park: First we will try to present what this means, and get some feedback from people in town. Carolyn made a flyer explaining that mowing a little later in the spring is beneficial to the pollinator insects. We should talk to Mac Newett early about this as he is the one who mows the Park. And we will pass out the flyer on Town Meeting Day and try to get responses from people.

**Plan for Town Meeting Day – who will speak, what is our message?** Pat and Alice and Mary and Larry will be there; Carolyn can't attend. We need to be ready for questions about our request for \$500 this year. This request is for **operating expenses**.

- We clear, mark, and maintain the Shattuck Mountain trail and we want to install better signage and possibly other infrastructure there. It is on the AllTrails app so the trail has been very well used this past season and brings in people from far away. It's a very positive asset to our town.
- We pay for a membership in VT Garden Network and we would like to again join the Ass'n of Vermont Conservation Commissions; these are yearly memberships we want to maintain.
- Our Community Pollinator Garden Project is entering its second year and we want to expand it, create signage and educational materials, and possibly fencing, better pathways, a bench or two, buy a few more perennials and or shrubs, etc. This project is also a big asset for our town and we hope to start exploring its educational possibilities for the school and local people.
- We are increasingly collaborating with the other 4 Conservation Commissions in our area and want to be able to contribute to some of the many programs and events they bring to our area; for instance, birding with Bridget Butler, the Bird Diva.
- We plan to enhance our Town Park kiosk with a sign and laminated maps of our town trails and other informational materials.
- We sponsored the Portalet in the Park for 2 out of the 4 months as it has been more difficult to find local sponsors

**Town Trails: Shattuck Mountain still closed** The Shattuck Mountain Trail is still closed according to people who have been up there to hike. Pat will talk to Katy Montaigne Gates about this, because we need to get that trail opened up again. We need to clarify this issue and have specific dates, if it must be closed for hunting season.

**Other Business:** Alice and Carolyn separately went on the recently opened Lamoille trail from E. Fairfield to Whitney Road, it's about a mile, a very nice section next to the Creek, away from the road and houses. Alice is willing to contact the state powers that be to see if there's a plan to put in a bench or two around the Lost Nation and Whitney road sections. A history note: John McMann was a civil war veteran who lived across the brook by the junction of Whitney road and the trail.

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

- Town Meeting is March 7. The Historical Society is offering a luncheon. They will have takeout available.
- Sugar on Snow party at the Historical Society March 26 1-4
- Howard Coffin is coming to speak on May 20 – Topic - The Year of No Summer
- Tuesday Feb. 28 will be an ARPA meeting. 6 pm at the Town Hall. We don't know yet if it will be Zoomed.
- There will be an Open House at the newly remodeled Mississquoi River Basin office in E. Berkshire on March 19, 9-11.
- A River Soiree is planned for Thursday March 23, 4-8, at the Enosburg Opera House with many local conservation organizations attending. We (BCC) have been asked to speak about our own local projects.

**Sights and Sounds of the Season:** Carolyn saw a mink running around the neighbors' woodpile. What is the difference between mink and ermine? Stoats are the animal that turns white in the winter. On our Park, Pat thinks there are beavers somewhere down there. The water is fairly high and there's beaver activity, chewed up trees. The beaver lodge near Carolyn's place seems to be empty, no sign of them but the pond is still there. Mary mentioned the dam removal off Witchcat Road has not gone the way that was planned. And it doesn't look good, terribly washed out. But Pat reported that some say that this is not a bad thing, the stream is just finding its own way. Pat says the ravens are still around at the cemetery. Ravens are about twice as big as crows and they're very intelligent.

**Date for Next Meeting: March 16, 5 pm**

**Adjourn: 6:03**