

BAKERSFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Unapproved Minutes, Thursday March 16, 2023, 5 PM
153rd Meeting

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

Call to Order: 5:04 pm

Approve Minutes of February 23 Meeting: Motion to accept – (AF, ML) passed.

Financial Report: Mary Lumbra: No change, \$\$2,129.39 on hand. Motion to accept (MH, CB) Passed.

Renew members whose terms expire: Nominations were made to renew the members whose terms expire in 2023: Mary Lumbra, Alice Foote, Larry Krygier, and Carolyn Bronz were elected for three year terms, ending in 2026.

Report on Snowshoe Outing Saturday Feb. 18: It was a good time, and we thank Alice for inviting us onto the Bakersfield Tree Farm property. There were 8 adults and one baby on this hike, it was snowing and a lovely day to be out.

Report on our request for funds at Town Meeting: We received the \$500 that we asked for. One person took exception to the request, but Larry spoke in support and the people approved.

Review 2022 Project Plan; start developing 2023 Plan.

- Pat monitors the beavers in the Town Park property
- Larry handles the Portalet in the Park.
- Cork board was installed by Larry at the kiosk, now we need informational signage
- The park is being mowed by Mac Newett. He is aware of our No Mow May initiative and will work with us
- We had three work days at the Shattuck Mountain Trail in 2022, clearing and putting up arrows marking the trail. We've contacted the land owners and we will install signage with clear information about closure dates. We will get the original trail sign to be more visible up at the parking corral, and the trailhead sign needs to be moved as it's hard to see. We will plan more workdays there.
- We need high quality permanent outdoor signage in the Town Park and at Shattuck. Alice will research some local providers. Also need laminated informational flyers for the kiosk.
- FaceBook page is being maintained and minutes uploaded to the Bakersfield Community forum as well.
- Pollinator Garden: we had numerous work days getting it planted, mulched and watered. We will do a small expansion this year. We need signage for the garden, and for the No Mow May initiative. A garden expert from VT Garden Network is supposed to do a site visit. Upcoming projects include garden edging, providing nesting areas for mason bees and other pollinators, as well as weeding, mulching and dividing plants.
- We will develop Trail maps for Shattuck and the Town Park.
- Alice will contact Selectboard about getting a E-Car Charging station in town. We think there are funds available. A good site is in front of the Cemetery property.
- CB will talk to Renee about a Heron walk this summer. She will take small groups of 5 or so.
- Town Plan was updated. We should get familiar with it to see if and where our CC can fit in. Who is on the town Planning Commission? Bill Irwin, Ben Carter. Pat looked it up on the Town website but found that it is from 2009. Larry will alert Kathy Westcom to get the updated plan on the website.
- We will keep in touch and collaborate with the local environmental organizations: The other 3 CC's, Cold Hollow to Canada, Mississquoi River Basin Ass'n., and Upper Mississquoi and Trout River Ass'n (UMATR).
- The Rail Trail passes through town though not close to the village. Alice is keeping in touch with Jackie Casino and others about further developments and improvements, hopefully including better parking at the Whitney Rd crossing.
- The NW Regional Planning Commission is available to help when we have projects. Linda McCall and Bill Irwin are on that board.

Carolyn will write up and share the 2023 Project Plan for next month.

Upcoming Event Reminders, Announcements, Public Comment:

- River Soiree Thursday March 23 4-8, Enosburg Opera House. RSVP required: Carolyn and Pat will go, and we've been asked to speak briefly about our CC projects.
- Sugar on Snow Party, Sunday March 26, at the BHS, 1-4. Rusty Bucket will be playing.
- Open House at the newly renovated UMATR office in E. Berkshire. Sunday the 12th, 9-11
- Water and Landscape Restoration Techniques Workshop at Paul-Lin Dairy, Thursday March 30th, 2023 from 12:30 to 3:00 pm, 864 Lawyer Road, East Fairfield, VT. (Rain Date: Friday March 31st, 2023)
- How Towns Can Manage Conflicts with Beavers. March 30, 12:00pm- 1:00pm - Free, online: Register <https://anr.vermont.gov/maps-and-mapping/biofinder/training#webinars>

Sights and Sounds of the Season: Pat saw signs of otters, they drag themselves over the snow and slide. Alice heard a woodpecker before the big storm. Mary and Carolyn have woodpeckers come to the feeder. Carolyn spent an afternoon at an oldtimey very small sugarhouse in Fletcher, buckets, no power, no running water. It was wonderful. Larry saw two flocks of snow buntings coming through Fairfield last week. They're white.

Date for Next Meeting: Thursday, April 20, 5 pm
ADJOURN 6:07