

BAKERSFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Unapproved Minutes, Thursday June 22, 2023, 6:30 PM
156th Meeting

Call to Order: 6:38

Approve Minutes of May 18 Regular Meeting and June 10 Special Meeting - Motion (ML, LK) to approve. Passed.

Financial Report: Mary Lumbrá: Balance unchanged., \$2129.39 **Motion to approve (AF, LK) passed**

Carriage Barn Report: Alice - Sharon Evans and Alice have learned that first step, an assessment of the building must be done. They've been in contact with people from Preservation Trust of VT, and a person came today to meet with them and look at all three buildings on the Park. She listened closely and is getting us on track to apply for an accurate estimate on the Carriage Barn's needs. There is a fund that can help with this assessment. She was interested in the Hearse House also. Alice noted, since we've got this Barn project going, we should communicate our plans to townspeople. **Motion (CB, ML) to apply for funds to do the assessment of the Carriage Barn. Passed.**

Town Forest Update: Pat. Larry, Pat and Maura walked the property with the owner Mr Dickman. He wants to donate 68 acres for a town Forest. Nancy Patch shared some concerns. Public access while the owner still lives there might be a problem. There are complicated legal issues because he will still live on the property. He is very involved in working in his woods and keeps the woods very clean. There are no commercial trees in there, no maples. A lot of yellow birch, some hemlock. Parking has to be worked out. The driveway is in a canyon and is narrow. Next step: We should get a knowledgeable person to sit with us and the owner to figure out details and the necessary legal implications of this gift. Irrevocable life estate? **Motion (CB, ML) to invite Mr Dickman to come to our next meeting July 20 to discuss the proposal: Passed.** We will ask Gary Foote to be there to listen and give us his perspective on everything involved. Nancy sent us a link to a complicated Town Forest Planning Workshop document.

Proposed Management of Town Common by BCC - Discussion. We need to know what is expected of us in this merger of the Town Park and the Town Common. The power to the Common has been turned off. There is a movie event planned for the Common. There is a contract in place to mow the lawn of the Common; it ends in 2025. The road crew works for the town, so they also can mow. The selectboard said that one of the volunteers who are working on the Common should join our BCC, and Lyle Willey has volunteered to join us. The question of the budget: we would have to ask for the necessary additional funds for management of the Common. *At this point the meeting was interrupted for tick removal on one of our members!* Pat proposes to meet again with the selectboard. We will review our original charter Mission document. **Motion (AF, LK) to go to the next Selectboard meeting and get specific expectations in writing. Passed.**

Pollinator Garden Report: Carolyn. She brought a few plants today and watered. The garden needs a good workday. Some plants have not survived. We might want to consider fruiting shrubs and small fruit trees; we could write a grant for that later in the season.

Town Park, Town Trails: J and A Auto signed up to sponsor the Portalet for a month. Other donators are: the Cemetery Commission, the Town of Bakersfield, and the BCC. We thank and appreciate all these sponsors!

Other Business: Carolyn had a follow-up phone call today about the grant she wrote to the New England Grass Roots Fund for two picnic tables. Final decision will be the week of July 4.

Upcoming Event Reminders, Announcements, Public Comment.

- Heron Walk, Wednesday the 28th, 1:30 pm at Renee Reiner's property.
- Ellen Fox will come on June 29th, 6 pm, and we will walk the brook behind the school.
- Those of us who haven't seen the Dickman property - Pat will contact him and plan another visit.
- A musician from UVM has a goal to play in every town in Vermont. He will be at the Church this Sunday at 3 pm, all welcome.
- 4th of July celebration is coming up. Larry handles the fireworks. The money allocated for fireworks actually covers all the costs of the event, not just the fireworks. There will be a parade this year, 6 pm.

Sights and Sounds of the Season: It is Solstice season. Pat found a crow had been buried under a mound of dirt. Cloven hoofs were seen on Josh Goss's property near the Town Park. Maybe a moose? Bears have been seen also near the golf course. Carolyn had a bear wander through the yard and there are deer eating her hostas and phlox; she's trying Liquid Fence to deter them. Alice saw a fawn this evening. Mary has two deer coming to browse. Alice described a plant that looks like a thistle but is soft; we need a photo. Larry found one goatsbeard plant in the plantation. These are not seen often around here.

Date for Next Meeting: Thursday July 20, 6:30 pm, Town Hall

Adjourn: 8:21 pm