

BAKERSFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Unapproved Minutes, Thursday May 18, 2023, 6:30 PM
155th Meeting – Hybrid In Person(Town Hall) and Zoom

We thank John West for facilitating this hybrid meeting!

Present for a Quorum: Pat Evans, Larry Krygier, Alice Foote, Carolyn Bronz By Zoom – Mary Lumbrá.
Guest: Julie Hill. Tech: John West

Call to Order: 6: 39 pm

Approve Minutes of April 20th Meeting – Motion (LK, AF) to approve. Passed. Discussion: Larry went to the tree planting at Westcoms last month. It is a hard job planting in the marsh. They've planted about 250 trees in all so far. Error - Mr. Lamphere's name was spelled wrong it is Lanphere.

Financial Report: Mary Lumbrá – There is no change. \$2129.39, Motion (CB, AF) to approve, passed.

Carriage Barn Report: Alice –

- Sharon E found a possible grant – Better Places. She filled out a Pre-Flight document for exploring this. She set up a Zoom meeting with the organization on May 30 at 11 am, for a consultation.
- Alice has also done some research. Funders are looking for stories describing the history and uses and significance and unusual features, etc. She thinks the building could qualify under these categories. Her connection with the Historical Society gives her a leg up on this. Vermont funds have helped us in the past with grants. Another connection to the State that we have is a state sign posted for the Academy. And there will be an official state sign for the Historical Building.. These people know us, they might consider our wish to fix the building. Alice wants to send a “tickle” letter to see what we might turn up.
- John explained a little more about the ARPA funding process. The Selectboard wants to match funds, not give 100%. The Better Places grant requires a match so ARPA funds would work there. The feds may want to claw back this ARPA money if we don't spend it soon. The Selectboard will be discussing this in their next meeting. 90% of the town people live on dirt roads which need a lot of maintenance so equipment would be a good use for this money, freeing up the taxpayers from footing those expenses.
- The town grant writer is under contract to write one grant stipulated by the Selectboard. If our commission wants him to research and write a grant we have to pay him out of our own budget.
- All members agree to go ahead with exploring funding opportunities for the Carriage House.

Pollinator Garden – We have a tentative date for a garden visit from Vermont Garden Network. June 13, Tuesday in the afternoon. Carolyn and others will be at the garden Saturday the 20th at 11 to clean up and assess next steps for the garden. We need to install edging and get more plants.

Shattuck Mtn.Trail: We have to meet with the owners because the closed sign might still be up. Pat will reach out.

Town Park and Kiosk –

- Green Up Day on May 6, Pat and Larry greened everything up in good shape thank you both! People have been using the trail.
- We need laminated maps and information on the kiosk and possibly a banner sign. Alice brought the original Town Park map and the boot print logo and Carolyn will work on getting a map done in a digital format.
- There were quite a few vehicles at the park the other day, probably looking for the Portalet, which will be installed on June 1, through September. Larry will contact organizations and ask them each to sponsor a month. He'll start with the Library.

Other Business:

- John West reports the general store project will not happen. Interest in the Cold Hollow Collective has waned and the building is being renovated for offices. The funds (\$800) that had been in the Store account will be dispersed to two town organization: \$400 for fireworks, and \$400 for the Town

Common. John hasn't given up, he still has a hope that if Brigham Academy gets restored there might be a store on the first floor there.

- Carolyn is writing a Seed Grant (New England Grass Roots Fund) for a heavy duty composite picnic table for the Park. Up to \$1,000. We are researching products, availability and costs. One of the existing picnic tables can be saved for one more year.

Upcoming Event Reminders, Announcements, Public Comment –

- Sunday May 21 at noon there will be a going away luncheon for Rev Devon Thomas at the church, all welcome.
- May 27 at the Lucas Williams Pavilion is a craft fair event with many vendors.

Sights and Sounds of the Season: Larry saw two Baltimore orioles which have not been here for years. He saw a live bat in the barn. That is good news. The warblers are back. Alice thinks there's a nest of ravens on her property. There's a pair in the cemetery. A Towhee was seen on the ground feeding. Sharon Evans has been documenting a robin's nest on their porch; the eggs starting hatching on Mother's Day. Carolyn has Jack in the pulpits popping up around her place, even in the sunny spots. Mary sees Mayflowers and flickers at her place. It's a beautiful time of year, changing every single day.

Date for Next Meeting: Thursday June 15 6:30pm.

Adjourn 7:56