

BAKERSFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Unapproved Minutes, Special Meeting, Saturday June 10, 2023, 9 AM In Person, Town Hall

Call to Order: 9:10

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

Approve Purchase of supplies needed for the Garden – top soil, mulch and plants, edging etc. Motion (LK, AF) to approve up to \$300 – passed.

Possible merger of the Town Common and Town Park, managed by the BCC – members are invited to the next Selectboard meeting to discuss this:

- The Selectboard may want the BCC to caretake and manage the Town Common. The cemetery association does not want to be responsible for this anymore. They were financing the mowing. A group of volunteers planted geraniums and improved a path with stone last year. They will be planting again. At one of the Selectboard meetings recently the idea was floated to merge this group with ours, or to ask our group to manage the Town Common along with the Town Park. There are a lot of responsibilities involved with this. Do we want to take this on? We would have to go to the town and ask for funds because of the expenses involved with mowing etc. As a group we are wary of taking on this responsibility and we need to know more specifically what the Board has in mind. Maybe a separate commission overseeing the town common? ***We will go to the meeting Monday evening June 12 and listen to what the board is asking.***
- Alice states we may need some leverage with the board coming up concerning our efforts with saving the Carriage Barn. If we offered to participate in managing the common, we could look for assistance with our project with the barn. Alice, Pat and Sharon Evans, and at times Gary Foote are in a sort of adhoc committee working on saving the Carriage Barn. They've looked into grants, have one in process, and they have contacted the VT Preservation Trust. Two representatives from that organization will be coming to inspect it next week. It really is a Town issue – maintaining and caretaking these buildings, the Barn, the Garage, and the Hearse House. So far, things have been done in a very informal way by different groups of people, with not a lot of transparent communication. I.E., how the bell was moved and the structure built. Church funds paid for the structure, Pat thinks. Should there be a master plan so that everyone be aware of what others are doing?
- The Hearse House is in very bad shape, very dangerous, part of the floor is gone. A group of people decided they were going to do something about it, and have been working on the building, but without consulting with others on a definite plan, as far as we know. It would be good if the town governance put effort into conserving what we have in town.

Proposed donation of 70 acres on Kings Hill Road for a Town Forest

- The landowner, James Dickman, is interested in giving this property to the town. Nancy Patch was in contact with him. It's in current use already. We might need a specialized lawyer for this. We would have to manage it as a town forest. We will invite Nancy Patch come to our next meeting to discuss how this can work. We all looked at the map; there's a stream and also beaver activity on the property, and roads and culverts. The town would need to approve and vote on this. There's a house in good shape and a quonset hut. The property would align with the Cold Hollow to Canada wildlife corridor, we think. ***Tentative date for a walking tour of the property is Tuesday June 14, 4pm.*** Meet in the driveway off Kings Hill Rd. It takes about 2 ½ hours to walk the boundary.

Other Business

- **Heron Walk:** We will send dates to Renee Reiner - June 28, 29, and 30, to see which date works best for her
- **Garden Visit:** July 22nd, a person from Vermont Garden Network will come and give us her assessment and advice on our garden.
- **Maps:** In process. The Town Park Trail Map should be ready by next meeting.

Adjourn: 10:15

