

BAKERSFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Unapproved Minutes, Thursday July 20, 2023, 6:30 PM
157th Meeting

Present for a Quorum: Pat Evans, Alice Foote, Larry Krygier, Maura Horne, Carolyn Bronz. Guest: Julie Hill

Call to Order: 6:38 pm

Approve Minutes of June 22 Meeting: Motion (LK, MH) to approve, **passed**

Financial Report: Mary Lumbr - not present.

Guests: Town Common Volunteers. None present.

Carriage Barn Report: Alice - Today Alice spoke with Charlotte Barrett from Preservation Trust VT and it looks positive for getting the buildings in the Town Park area assessed for repair costs. The recommendation is to assess all three (Carriage Barn, "Milk" Shed, and Hearse House) at the same time. The cost for this is \$1250, and we would be responsible for half - \$625; the other half would be covered by a grant from Preservation Trust. At a recent meeting the Selectboard said they would match any grants we receive. Estimates could be done by late summer or early fall. Alice talked with Linda McCall who thinks that the Cemetery Commission might like to work separately on the Hearse House, and may go for a loan. Motion (CB, LK) to have estimates for all three buildings done and to ask the Selectboard to fund the \$625 fee. **Passed.** We will attend the next Selectboard meeting to make our request.

Pollinator Garden: Carolyn. Last week she came and did some weeding and lopped branches from the dogwood that were shading and pushing on some of the plants. Went to Riverberry yesterday and got 5 perennials to keep filling in, and also 4 mature red cardinal plants have been donated; these are excellent for pollinators. The VT Garden Network representative shared an idea for edging that doesn't involve plastic, and she will visit our garden on August 17, the day of our next meeting. Now we have to schedule a work session.

Picnic Table Grant: Carolyn. The grant was denied and the reasons are puzzling. It's almost as if they didn't read the grant. They reviewers were concerned that we did not take into account other community voices on what the Park needs and they suggested maybe either a garden (which we already have) or a playground (which we have at the school) might be a better choice than two picnic tables. Also they mentioned ADA accessibility issues. So we will try to make the two tables last for this season by replacing some of the rotted boards. Larry will work on this. With the flooding issues in the state, the local grant organizations will be focused on funding recovery efforts.

Town Forest Update: Pat. Mr Dickman, who is proposing donating 70 acres for a town forest, couldn't make this meeting. We will schedule a special meeting to just meet with him at a time convenient to everybody. There are many questions and uncertainties involved with how this donation could be managed.

Town Park, Town Trails: Signage for Shattuck; Kiosk: The Town Park is in good shape. Someone mowed the Ball Park – who? And thank you!. Pat will contact Seth Gates, the owner of the Shattuck Mountain property, to clarify exactly when the trail will close for hunting season so that we can get a sign made.

Stream Walk and Heron Rookery Walk: This happened on two consecutive days, June 28 and 29. Ellen Fox, Lindsey Wight and Sarah (sorry I don't have her last name) led us at the stream behind the school. Steep, slippery, a healthy streambed. The brush being thrown over the bank is a good distance away from the stream, so not impacting it. Renee Reiner led four of us to the heron nests on her property and we observed the fledglings and adults in this lovely habitat. All part of the unnamed stream system in town, a main branch with two tributaries, very clean, feeding into Black Creek.

Other Business:

- Aaron Doane wants to play music in the Park September 2.

- Alice shared information from the Historical Society. A second sign has been posted in front of the building. It was free and put up according to the State requirements. There will be a recognition/unveiling ceremony. The sign is to be covered until this happens. They need to figure out a little ceremony for the unveiling. Maybe an ice cream social in September? Someone from the State will come to speak. This sign commemorates the life of the building: 1846-1850's it was an Academy, then the Catholics used the first floor for services. The Grange also met there on the second floor. In 1890 only the Catholic church was using it. The extension was put on then. The Historical Society bought the building in 1990 for \$1.00.
- **Julie Hill will serve as a new member of our Commission. We will ask the Selectboard to appoint her at their next meeting. Welcome and thank you Julie! We now will have seven members.**

Upcoming Event Reminders, Announcements, Public Comment: Saturday the 22nd, a pie sale at the Park, a Christmas in July theme.

Sights and Sounds of the Season: Alice saw Larry's three little fawns this morning. Five male turkeys are running around the tree farms. Amber heard a Towhee, but didn't see them. Julie hears them all the time also. There were three little fox kits in Alice's neighborhood earlier.

Date for Next Meeting: August 17th. Adjourn: 7:40pm