

BAKERSFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Unapproved Minutes, Thursday January 4, 2023, 4 PM
163rd Meeting

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

Call to Order: 4:00pm

Approve Previous Minutes 11-17-23. Motion (Lk, JH) to approve, **passed**.

Financial Report: \$1860.13 in the account. This includes the \$500 that was voted to us in March. In Mary's absence, we need to replace her position. Motion (CB, LK) to appoint Julie Hill as treasurer: **passed**.

Prepare Budget for 2025: Discussion about budget document. Lisa made her request for plants. Our Commission now accountable for overseeing the Town Common and budget requests from those volunteers will be submitted along with our own requests. There is a serious issue with the electrical hookups in the Common for the Christmas trees, potentially hazardous, which will need to be addressed. Motion (AF, JH) to approve the budget document and to submit it to the selectboard: **passed**.

Conservation Reserve Fund: Carolyn shared a document about establishing this kind of account, based on Nancy Patch's recommendations for building up a fund that would allow us to take advantage of land acquisition opportunities as well as expenses related to the same. Motion (LK, AF) to present this proposal to the Selectboard on their Monday meeting. **Passed**.

EOY Report for 2023: Members read and made suggestions and corrections to this draft document. Carolyn will finalize and send it out to all.

Honor Mary Lumbra in the Town Report: We will contact Kathy about this, and write up a story.

Carriage Barn Update. We will know the result of our grant request in February. We paid half of the grant writer's (Alex Barkley) fee - \$367.50, and the selectboard paid the other half.

Town Park, Town Trails: Lost trail sign - #5 is missing. Whoever did this came back at least twice to take out the sign posts, unfortunately. The Shattuck Trail landowners are requesting that the trail be deleted from the AllTrails app. They prefer to keep it "a local hidden gem". We will work on that.

Sights and Sounds of the Season: Alice saw sap trucks on the road a few days ago. Sap is only 1 ½ percent, normally around 3 %. Gervais's were boiling and other sugar makers also. Pat moved his bird feeders. They were on the porch but there was a rat problem. Julie has seen a massive flock of starlings around. Larry spent hours in the woods and saw no birds, no deer. It certainly is a very strange winter. Alice heard some kind of squawk, doesn't know if it was a bird or animal. Deer have been eating apple tree branches as well as the trees in the two tree farms. Alice has resorted to buying a huge number of bamboo 4" rods, putting them vertically beside the trunks of any little tree. One stick of bamboo, just above the leader, the deer pokes its nose and then doesn't bother it. But for the bigger trees, that doesn't work and Larry has been spraying with Repel. The deer herd is too large and they are damaging the woods by eating all the young trees. This has only been happening in the last few years. Why? No snow, warmer winters. Not enough predators. You can see browse lines everywhere. They are eating anything small.

Date for Next Meeting: Thursday Jan 18, 1 pm

Adjourn: 5:32