

BAKERSFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Unapproved Minutes, Thursday February 29 2024, 1 PM
165th Meeting

Present for a Quorum: Pat Evans, Alice Foote, Julie Hill, Carolyn Bronz. Guest: Sharon Evans

Call to Order: 1:05

Approve Previous Minutes – 1-18-24: Motion to approve (AF, JH) passed.

Financial Report – Julie: No Information available

Conservation Reserve Fund – Handout for Town Meeting Day

☐ Sharon passed out the informational brochure with color photos she created. We will hand these out to people as they come in to Town Meeting and Pat will speak about it at the end of the meeting. We will be prepared to answer questions.

Carriage Barn Report – Alice and Sharon.

☐ We did not get our grant funded. The grantors offered to meet with us to discuss our grant proposal and why they did not fund us. We will make a date with them.

☐ To be in a better position for grants, we need to get the building on the National Registry of Historic Buildings. We will start that process.

☐ Alice talked with Mike Lamphear. He had learned through Linda about the grant denial. He still wants to do the work. He is willing to come and work on the foundation problems and the roof project. He would like us to crew of volunteers to work with him and said he would even come on Saturdays. We believe there are community members who would volunteer. And possibly the VT Youth Conservation Corps. Local high school students possibly? We can send these thoughts back to Charlotte in Montpelier.

☐ Carolyn shared a small grant application from the Association of VT Conservation Commissions. Up to \$600, and they look for a match which we can do, and also they look for in-kind donation and volunteer hours. This grant would give us a good start on doing something with the Barn. She will begin the process of applying and then we will give it to Alex Barkley for advice and polishing.

☐ Sharon thinks our chances of getting a grant could be improved if they see we've done some work on it ourselves. "Make it smile!" Clean it out. Sell what can be sold. Paint at least the side facing the road and hammer in the nails. Put something up to close up the open dorr, like clear plastic over the opening. Use it to store things, or for a plant give-away or sale. Discussion about liability in case of injury to volunteers. A waiver? We got mixed signals about taking the trees down, and whether there is any funds left in ARPA.

☐ Alice says the Selectboard is very enthusiastic and encouraging about our project of rehabbing the barn.

☐ Sharon handed out a large list of grants. A bit overwhelming.

☐ Someone is coming to take photos of the Hearse House, which is also in process to get on the Registry. The Church also has that goal. There will be a lift put into the church for access to the basement. And there may be grant funds to assist with that.

Local CC's Potluck Review: It was delicious. And we made connections with the other CC;s, Cold Hollow to Canada, UMATRA (Wild and Scenic Rivers) Franklin County Natural Resources Conservation District.

Pollinator Garden: Signage, Dues, Upcoming tasks, Pollinator Pathways in Town.

- ☐ Carolyn shared a flyer, double sided, No Mow May and Pollinator Pathways. We will hand these out to people as they leave the meeting.
- ☐ We will send dues to the Vermont Garden Network for this year (\$75)
- ☐ This season, finish edging the garden, possibly expanding slightly, divide plants to share or sell, and add more varieties.
- ☐ As part of Carolyn's Pollinator Steward class, she must complete a new project and she has talked with Hadley Priebe at the library who is excited to have pollinator friendly plants in the front lawn there. So this can be the beginning of having a Pollinator Pathway in town.
- ☐ New signs will go up on the kiosk, a banner, the Town Trail map, and the No Mow May sign.

Town Common and Town Park:

- ☐ Pat and Alice spoke with the Selectboard about downed trees on the trail. They said they can't do anything but Joss Goss said he could go down there and take a look. Who cleaned up the trees that fell down in the Common? Mac got the wood.
- ☐ Clean up day in May,
- ☐ No Mow May in the Park again this year.

Upcoming Event Reminders, Announcements, Public Comment:

- ☐ Pie sale Town Meeting Day. On the porch and inside
- ☐ Sugar on Snow, Historical Society, Sunday March 24th 1-3. Rusty Bucket will play.
- ☐ Eclipse 4-8. Hope for a sunny day!

Sights and Sounds of the Season: Pat discovered bear tracks in the lawn. And a bear was in the back yard at night. The dog chased them off by barking. Carolyn had big coyote tracks all around her house for the first time, also fox are around. A mink under a neighbor's shed.s. Starlings have been around. Dead porcupine. Mourning doves. Over population of deer in the tree farms. But all of a sudden they are rarely seen. There's a big logging operation down on Rte 36 going on.

Date for Next Meeting: March 21 Thursday - the equinox. We will be working on the plan for 2024.

Adjourn 2:37