

**BAKERSFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**Unapproved Minutes, 168<sup>th</sup> Meeting, Tuesday, 5-21-24**

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

**Call to Order:** 1: 05

**Approve Previous Minutes – 4-23-24: Motion to approve (LK, AF)** Discussion – Question (AF) about the mud bog area. Shouldn't Fish and Game be involved with this issue? Larry explained why the damaged area is getting bigger. The side by sides dig it up so that the 4 wheelers have to go around beyond, that's why the area gets more and more dug up and the original roadway is no longer apparent. **Passed**

**Financial Report – Julie. \$2410.13. Motion (LK, AF) to accept: passed**

**Town Park, Town Common –**

- Discussion of BCC's role in the Town Common, which we had understood to be an advisory capacity, not management. The road crew is mowing it now as well as the Town Park. There are only two people on the crew at present. Maria is only mowing the cemetery property now. There are other Common issues that are unclear as to where the responsibility lies, for example, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event. The Fire Dept handles that since the Special Concerns Committee has dissolved. But what is expected from BCC is unknown, and we will get that answer from the Selectboard.
- Ivan asks for the fence rails to be put back up and that will be done. The flowers will be planted soon in the circle. Two more benches are being donated for the Common and Ivan will put them up front near the sidewalk. Linda McCall knows about where to get good benches.
- Bell Tower roof damage – Phil Lumbrá hasn't given an estimate yet. Pat will get in touch with him.
- Portalet – will be in the Town Park next week. Cost is \$128/month, for four months. Larry is contacting sponsors. The Town and the BCC each sponsor a month. The Cemetery Commission usually sponsors a month but they have declined for this year. Many people from other communities visit the cemetery; Alice mentioned that a person with 65 relatives in the cemetery showed up and was delighted and interested in our community and its history. Larry is looking for another two sponsors for the Portalet.

**Signage:** 1 sign to install for Shattuck Mtn Trail. Katie Montagne approved this sign months ago. Carolyn will let her know it's finally being installed at the parking area on Waterville Mtn. Rd on June 4 at 10 am. The metal sign will need to be backed with a wood panel which Alice might have. Larry found a metal post for it.

**501-C3 and Carriage Barn updates –**

- To accept tax-free donations, we need to have a 501-c3 (non-profit). The BCC set one up years ago for acquiring Town Park property. Larry remembers how close we came to not getting the Town Park. Dorothy Allard, Gary Foote, Larry and others worked very hard to get everything lined up; there were multiple small and large grants and complicated hoops to jump through!

- There is a possibility that a donor would consider giving funds for the Carriage Barn project if we have a 501-c3. Julie did extensive research and reports that we can't re-up the previous one. To start a new one is not a swift process. It requires a lawyer, to get a number set up, and have a slate of officers, then the application. It's not impossible but it would be a big project. Another option could be for a donor to make a donation to the town with a specific designation for the Carriage Barn. Whether that could be tax-free, Julie does not know. She will contact with our treasurer Tom for his opinion on this. The Historical Society is a 501-c3 and there are a few others in town. Special Concerns Committee was a 501-c3 but is being dissolved as of now. Alice offered to contact our potential donor after Julie speaks with Tom.
- Mike Lamphere is getting busy and is involved with directing restoration activities at the Hearse House. Alice feels we have to get going on our barn project asap.

**Tree Planting Grant:** We informed Ivan about our plan to apply for this grant and likely get some trees planted in the Common. He said that any new trees are supposed to be sourced from the Maynard farm according to a town document. However, they would be difficult to dig up. Adam McCullough, who came to do a site visit with us, recommended conifers to line the sidewalk side of the Common, but Larry's advice is not to block it off, rather, put in just a couple of trees. Adam sent results of his soil test. CB will contact Marlana from NWRP to come to our meeting next month and help get started on the grant.

**Pollinator Garden – Workday schedule:** June 4, before and after the sign installation if weather is good. Carolyn will get a start on it whenever weather and schedule permit.

**Other Business:**

- Thursday May 23 at 8:30, Larry and Pat will work on the Town Park sign which is leaning.
- The BCC plans to have a table at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event. Alice showed a booklet from the Arbor Day foundation with kids activities and puzzles; she will look into getting a bunch to hand out. We have Emerald Ash Boror info pamphlets. Flyers with information about our projects. Maybe flower seeds, plants?

**Upcoming Event Reminders, Announcements, Public Comment:** There is an open meeting June 24<sup>th</sup> with Nancy Patch and members of the Selectboard to visit the site of the "Arena" on Belvidere Mtn. Road. Time TBD. She recommends forming a Road Committee to resolve the issues of environmental degradation there, and is asking that a member of the BCC to volunteer to be on that committee.

**Sights and Sounds of the Season:** There's a rabbit around which Alice does not think is a wild rabbit. It may be one of a neighbor's domestic rabbits. Many red wing blackbirds! In Carolyn's neighborhood a big black bear has been raiding sugarhouses and pawing through recycling etc. She has a groundhog living under their shed. No Mow May ended early due to the rapid lush growth of lawn areas and all the next phase nectar blooms that are coming in.

**Date for Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 18, 1 pm**

**Adjourn: 2:35 pm**