

Attendees (4): David Lewis, Rhiannon Johnson, Ellie de Villiers, Polly Darnell, John Peters  
7pm - 7:45pm

November 15th, 2023 Draft Meeting minutes approved unanimously with no changes.

### Old/Continued Business

- Approval of minutes from the meeting of November 15, 2023.
- Wildlife Corridor project updates.
  - We now have 10 cameras out and collecting images
  - David: Will we want Sophie back at some point?
    - She reports that she generally does not move a camera until about 3 months have gone by. We may want to consider moving cameras in February.
      - Ellie: What is the process for moving them? Can we do it ourselves?
      - David: would prefer for Sophie to come back to move the cameras
        - Rhiannon: Do we know what our bank account looks like?
          - David: we've only been by Sophie billed once so far
          - Ellie: It might be good for us to estimate how much money we will need in March and discuss what we want to do for the rest of the year and beyond so that we can submit a budget proposal to the select board for next year.
      - David: Sophie says that mating season is coming up for Bobcat. John may want to move his camera.
  - David: Anyone need camera monitoring supplies?
    - John Peter's and Ellie's batteries are running at about 40%. David will bring them both additional batteries.
    - David also reports that the batteries are depleting quickly
  - We need a statement for the community to let everyone know what we are up to.
    - David: statement in FPF with the basis being the landowner letter
      - Ellie: consider including information about what our goal is by collecting this data
    - Rhiannon: has anyone seen the mailing from the Town?
      - It's not been getting mailed and is now online
      - Ellie: the town website does not seem to have anything posted about our meetings or what we have been doing.
    - Polly: can the update be included in the Town Report? Which is usually sent out at the end of January
      - David: **Susan and David will do the report.** Polly and Ellie will send the photos they took during camera placement to add to the report.
  - We need new site permissions for additional camera placement.

- Looking at another Munger Street location
- Susan and David are working on this. Susan is also working on a northern New Haven location
- What are people seeing on their game cameras?
  - Sumner location is seeing Bobcat
  - John has seen black bear, coyote, Bobcat, raccoon. Lives on Limekiln Road.
  - Ellie is seeing a lot of squirrels, but may have seen a fox or a cat, and a few birds and some deer
- Budget and work plan for the commission going forward. Let's pick up that thread from the November 2023 meeting.
  - Ellie: we should be planning for how much money we will need in 2025 since we have missed our opportunity to ask for more for 2024
  - David: will get our current bank statement so that we understand how much we have
  - Polly: David, can you ask how much money was allocated to us for this year?
  - Ellie: Do we have any sort of statements to tell us what we've spent in previous years?
    - What/when is the end goal for wildlife camera tracking and how much money do we want to dedicate to it?
    - What do we want to do for the Armchair Naturalist series and how do we want to earmark it?
      - Polly: we've historically done this program Jan-March. It might be good to have Sophie do the tracking class here in New Haven?
        - David: this is a good place to look for a community engagement project
        - Polly: Mary Pratt suggested the book "Crossings" and the topic of roadside ditches.
          - Possibly have a viewing of that video and a discussion about it. Polly will forward the information about the video
        - Polly: there was a book reading "Eat, Poop, Die" about animals by Joe Roman. He might be available for a talk.
          - Might be a good book for the book discussion
          - Ellie: this seems like a logical collaboration after we have a new town librarian
    - Ellie: we can take a few steps back and talk about what we could be doing, such as the 30 by 30 and the 50 by 50 initiatives going on in the state. What do the people in town want to know about?
      - Maybe a survey?
    - Rhiannon: reach out to Jens about facilitating a group discussion with folks in the town about what they care about.
      - Ellie: Rhiannon can you ask Jens about what other ideas might he have for topics or grant funding he is aware of?

- Rhiannon: will share the resources from the Environmental Leadership Training courses.

**New Business**

- Ellie shared the link to the Vergennes study about the changes to the roads
- Polly: has anyone seen a notification from the Planning Commission about the town plan? [Polly will find the notice and circulate it with the group.](#)
- Polly: John, as a member of the public, what are you interested in?
  - John: observing and learning
- [Polly will forward the VT Digger piece about Japanese Knotweed being spread by the flooding.](#) Some residents may be interested in invasive vegetation control.
  - Ellie: would there be any grant funding that would support eradicating invasives if it's been spread by flooding?
  - This might be a good armchair naturalist discussion as it talks about things that are actionable
- Adjournment