

Attendees (4): David Lewis, Adam Rice, Mary Pratt, Susan Smiley

Time: 7:00pm - 7:45pm

October 18th, 2023 Draft Meeting minutes approved unanimously with no changes.

### **Old/Continued Business**

Approval of 10-18-23 Minutes - Unanimously approved with no changes

### Open Meeting Laws

- Acknowledge note from Pam re: agenda and minutes, and confirm what are our deadlines based on our meeting cadence.
- Zoom Meetings are OK but one person, per state law, will need to be at Town Office and public needs to get access to both in person and zoom meeting links.
- Action: Susan to engage Pam and get back to us.
- RE: Zoom. We will pivot to in person meetings with zoom presence for remote dial-ins.
- Mary to step down from the conservation commission – this will be her last meeting.

### Wildlife Crossing Study Project - Update & Camera Placement

- We have put out 5 cameras with Sophie's help
- Instruction given by Sophie
- Top of the line VT-state provided cameras.
- Idea from Sophie: Dave has extra cards so you can return to house and look at SD card.
- Sophie recommended time stamping manually by holding date in front of camera and card label.
- Dave has whiteboard and eraser
- We have 2 volunteers: John Peters, and Nick Tonsoro.
- Dave to talk to Polly/Mary on camera usage - to be trained after Thanksgiving week.
- 5 cameras still need to be put out; permissions need to be worked on.

### Sophie Items

- We may need another day from Sophie (\$450 inc travel). As a monitor, she had a good idea of how to sight camera. Though we had locations, once we were on site, there was a lot of latitude in terms of placement. Sophie's insight was valuable - off road, "pinch points", etc.
- Cameras are OK, but you are limited to the view of the camera. There's a lot more that is going on beyond the view.
- She's offered 12/12 or 12/13 on days when she could come back and place remaining 5 cameras.
- Total fees are \$410 (\$250 + \$160 travel costs)
- Commission moved to bring Sophie back one more time to place 5 remaining game cameras. These spots have been scouted and permission will be acquired for all locations prior to installation on Dec 12th or Dec 13th
- Susan, Rhiannon, and Dave responsible for seeking permission for remaining cameras.

Ellie's Synopsis from Conservation Commission Summit

- Susan: Ellie and Susan went. There were many towns represented. A lot of exchange of information. Amy Sheldon spoke in 1st half. We were sent a follow up email with a bunch of attachments sent from the organizer. Susan will forward them to the remainder of the commission. Subject of next agenda would be to review the attachments they've shared.
- Overall, very informative.

Budget and Work Plan for Commission Going Forward

- Rhiannon and Ellie has expressed enthusiasm for this. Other commissions create this annually.
- 2nd time Dave has brought this up.
- Cornwall work plan as a reference for what we could do on a yearly basis.
  - Commission should take a peek at that to get a sense of how we incorporate.
- Work Plan should be a topic on December agenda

Next Conservation Commission Meeting

- Proposal for next meeting - December 20th, 2023
  - Topics to come.