

Attendees: David Lewis, Susan Smiley, Mary Pratt, Ellie de Villiers, Polly Darnell, Rhiannon Johnson

*Final Meeting Minutes approved unanimously 9/20/23*

#### Opening Discussion

- Need a new Secretary, Mary was nominated and declined, Ellie was nominated and declined, Rhiannon was nominated and accepted
- Public participation: if we want more participation, we need to set a consistent schedule so that people can make time on their calendars to attend
  - David made a motion for the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7pm for all future Conservation Commission meetings
  - Vote was taken - all approved, vote passed unanimously to hold the Conservation Commission Meetings the Third Wednesday of every month
- **Rhiannon** to ask Town Clerk (Pam) when and where to post the meeting minutes
  - Meeting minutes must be posted no less that 5 days after the meeting on a website (either maintained by the Commission or by “the public”)

#### Wildlife Corridor Project

- Laura (last name) will provide maps other than those provided by Jens Hilke of our region and both will be used to see where there is overlap
- Group reviewed Polly’s email from 7/10/23 regarding her attendance at the Regional Conservation Partnership meeting in June where other attendees “reported struggling with having greater ambitions than people or time or expertise available to implement them”. This led to a discussion about narrowing our focus. David commented that he doesn’t feel comfortable with our broad scope for the Wildlife Crossing Project and the group agreed that we would benefit from shrinking our focus.
- We agreed that we need both long term and short term goals
  - We determined that our short term goal is to publish the regional wildlife corridor overlay maps to raise awareness
  - **Ellie** will coordinate with the Regional Planning Commission at the appropriate time after the NHCC has determined a direction
- David let us know that Sophie has gotten game cameras for us from Jens
  - We need to determine where to put them
  - We need to ask the Select Board what action we need to take in order to mount cameras in the right of way
  - We need to obtain a right of way permit in order to mount the game cameras
- When the inquiry went out in FPF about interest in participating in the wildlife crossing study, 3 people responded. **Mary** will reach out to those people to gauge their level of interest.

#### Regional Conservation Commission Meeting

- A regional conservation commission meeting will be held November 4, 2023 at Holly Hall in Bristol

Pollinator Project

- Rhiannon and Polly met with Kristin Geiger at the relocated Train Depot on Saturday, 8/12/23 to discuss the possibility of creating a pollinator habitat around the depot
- Steve Dubois is in charge of the project. There is not currently a landscaping plan. Rhiannon has inquired about getting a site plan to better understand where the wetland property boundaries are.
- We identified the following potential sub-projects within this project:
  - Removal of existing invasive species
  - Planting an oak tree
  - Taking soil samples to determine the soil composition and what may grow best in that location
  - Having someone do an educational talk on the benefits of pollinator gardens
    - Rhiannon suggested Rebecca Lindenmeyr

Birding Binoculars

- The idea of providing binoculars for birding was brought up by a member
- We discussed the idea of collaborating with the library to provide per-built backpacks that can be loaned out to residents with birding binoculars and other bird identification supplies and that this could be tied to the Armchair Naturalist learning events
- **Polly** to research the cost
- **Mary** to connect with Katie at the library