

Meeting Minutes

**Town of New Haven
Conservation Commission Meeting
Town Offices
Thursday, August 24, 2017, 6:30 p.m.**

Members Present - Cheryl Mitchell, Al Karnatz, Mark Krawczyk

Agenda:

Meeting Opening

Request for any changes to agenda

With just a small turnout, we opted for a brief discussion of the few topics that felt most pressing and that we were capable of exploring

New Business

2017-2018 Armchair Naturalist Program

Do we have anyone signed up for October/November for armchair naturalist?

Al will check with Dean to see if we already have reached out to any prospective presenters.

Cheryl will also talk with folks from the Four Winds program to see if they'd be willing and available to share details on the program

We also discussed the potential to draw connections between the Four Winds school curriculum and the Armchair Naturalist themes so that parents and children might be able to learn alongside one another, each reinforcing the other

We would like to solidify our speakers for October and November of 2017 at our next meeting. We will not host a December program as has been the case in previous years.

We also discussed the possibility of putting on the "Biggest" or "Unique" Tree Contest this fall and perhaps connecting that with a presenter on homeowner tree care with a local arborist, etc for the November Naturalist talk. Mark will explore one possible presenter.

Other potential presenters include:

Refining specific Armchair Naturalist events for the Fall (suggested dates, conflicts with others) and assigning responsibilities...Mike Kierman (Bees), Mark LaBarr (Bobalinks, Grassland and Shrubland Bird Conservation in the Champlain Valley), Patrick Berry (Past Chairman Vt. Fish and Wildlife), Dennis Woo (Sky Talk), Dave Lewis (Tree Planting), Rare plants in New Haven The ecology of the cedar swamps in New Haven, one near the Watershed and the other near Al (Mark Lapin, Eric Sorenson?), Margaret Fowle, Audubon, speaker for November?

We adjourned the meeting at 7:30pm and discussed setting the date for our next meeting on September 14th at 6:30pm in the Town Offices assuming enough members can make it.