

Town of New Haven
Conservation Commission Meeting
Virtual Meeting
Wednesday, September 16, 7:00 P.M.

Members Present - Cheryl Mitchell, Al Karnatz, Susan Smiley, Mark Krawczyk

Agenda:

Approve/Amend Minutes from Last Meeting

All four members approved the meeting minutes from July.

Request for any changes to agenda

No changes to the agenda

Financial Report

We will revisit NHCC finances at our next meeting. No major changes since our last meeting.

Old Business

- Are we ready to schedule in-person conservation walks?
 - Susan has attended a few local walks. VLT (Vermont Land Trust) has not offered any public walks in recent months. Vermont Coverts has been doing webinars but no in person walks.

- As a group we've decided to hold off from scheduling any in person public events until pandemic best practice shift towards a more supportive environment for these types of events.
- Shall we continue suggesting videos?
 - Fire ecology - the ways fire directs ecological succession in more dryland-type landscapes
 - Lynx/bobcat
 - Vermont Family Forests -
 - consent form connecting Abenaki people with access to private landowners open to various forms of 'traditional ecological management'
 - Vermont Family Forests series on wild edible and medicinal plants
 - Forest fragmentation
- Poster of New Haven Elm Trees, can it be made electronically?
 - Yes it can be made electronically and Mark will do it for Town Meeting Day
 - He can also include information on ecology, growth preferences/requirements, the plight of the species due to Dutch elm disease along with images of specimens from New Haven
 - Largest elm tree in Vermont is located at the blueberry farm in Bristol
- Forest Fragmentation: shall we invite a presentation on ways other towns are addressing this?
 - Perhaps we could explore inviting a specialist to speak with the Planning Commission and other interested townspeople about the issue of forest fragmentation and emerging best practices.

New Business

- Is there a role for the NHCC in helping to review or shape town plans?
 - This is something we've been discussing for some time and perhaps we can make inroads towards greater partnership with the Planning Commission to help educate, inform, and support conservation initiatives as part of future town plan revisions.

Other?

We discussed scheduling our next meeting for the first week of November 2020 - most likely Wednesday November 4th.

Meeting adjourned 7:45pm