

**Town of New Haven**  
**Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**Town Offices**  
**Thursday March 16, 2017, 6:30 p.m.**

Members Present - Susan Smiley, Ruth Penfield, Mark Krawczyk, Dean Percival via telephone

## **Agenda Items**

### **Hosting Summer “Outdoor” Naturalist events**

We discussed the possibility of organizing several field walks hosted by members of the New Haven Community

We suggested putting a post on Front Porch Forum that invites locals to host a field walk. Ideally either they'd have some expertise they'd like to share - say a particular natural feature, some unique habitat, or a rare species - or we'd find an 'expert' who would be able to lead the field walk

We discussed looking for 3 sites/hosts and holding them once a month in June, July and August.

We'll announce the invitation to field walk hosts at the April Armchair Naturalist talk on Rattlesnakes

Susan Smiley offered to draft up a description and will share it with Conservation Commission members

We'll then post the invite on Front Porch Forum following the April Armchair Naturalist presentation

Also, Dennis Woos offered to host something on astronomy and the night sky. Perhaps this could serve as one of the events depending on the location and timing he had in mind.

### **Overstood Apple Tree 'Release'**

Ruth Penfield also talked about an event in Starksboro that she was aware of revolving around releasing and rejuvenating wild apple trees. These 'released' trees could help provide 'soft mast' (fruit) for wildlife. We discussed possibly looking to host something like this in the future that could move from site to site each year throughout the community.

### **Tree Contest**

We also discussed the idea of hosting a "Biggest" or "Unique" Tree Contest. We think it'd be best to wait to promote this until a bit later on in the season.

Branch Out Burlington's event could serve as something of a template. Also, Westminster apparently hosts a similar event.

We'll work to flesh out these details and refine them before posting to the wider community.

Perhaps this would culminate in some type of community event in the fall.

**Armchair Naturalist speaker for May** - Fish and Wildlife?

Dean will contact our Fish and Wildlife contact and see if they're available