

**Town of New Haven
Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Hosted at Dean Percival's Home
Thursday, October 19, 2017, 6:30 p.m.**

Members Present - Dean Percival, Susan Smiley, Al Karnatz, Mark Krawczyk
Guests - Adam Becker - arborist and assistant town tree warden

Agenda:

Meeting Opening

Request for any changes to agenda

Susan Smiley requested to discuss Town Land Trust structures and programs in Addison County. Al Karnatz explained a number of different approaches to investing in land trust-type funds at the town scale. We agreed to continue to research how some of our neighbors are making this work and pick up the discussion at a future meeting.

Financial Report

Financial report

\$533 in account currently

New Business

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**Winter 2017-2018 Armchair Naturalist Schedule**

Thursday November 16 - Adam Becker - Trees and Tree Care - At this event we'll also announce the town wide Tree Contest

January 18 - Mark LaBarr - Bobalinks, Grassland and Shrubland Bird Conservation in the Champlain Valleys

February 15 - Eric Sorenson - Natural Communities of Vermont (Al will contact him to see if he's available)

We also discussed trying to align our program themes with those of the 4 Winds program at Beeman as per Cheryl's suggestion

4 Winds topics for the spring of 2018 are:

March: White tailed deer we could set up a related evening program for adults

April: Forest Birds we could set up a related evening program for adults

May: Life in a pond - The Mitchell's have offered to do a conservation

walk on our farm that would focus on ponds and wetlands

We will work to find speakers for each of these themes and connect with 4 Winds admin to see how we might create some more overlap between the programs

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Hosting a "Biggest" or "Unique" Tree Contest

We discussed some of the criteria/categories Branch Out Burlington uses for their contest. Mark K and Adam Becker agreed to flesh out the structure and protocol for New Haven's first annual contest and announce it at Adam Becker's Armchair Naturalist Talk on November 16.

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### **Backyard Conservation program**

Susan mentioned an event scheduled in Ferrisburg on backyard conservation that she's planning to attend. She will report back to us on the program and see if they'd be interested in offering something similar here.

We would look to ideally schedule this type of event on a day where there's already traffic on the town green

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Educational Event on the Release and rejuvenation of apple trees for wildlife benefit

Susan Smiley is willing to host a hands-on workshop at her farm in early April.

Meeting Adjourned at 8pm