

Meeting Minutes

**Town of New Haven
Conservation Commission Meeting
Town Offices
Thursday, November 15, 2018, 7:00 P.M.**

Members present - Susan Smiley, Mark Krawczyk

Agenda:

- 2018-2019 Armchair Naturalist Series

We discussed aiming to organize 2-3 programs starting in January 2019 as we're able to find speakers.

We do have funds available to compensate.

Ideally we aim to parallel the Four Winds Program schedule to help guide speaker choices.

Action - Susan will ask the school for the Four Winds calendar of subjects and we'll seek out relevant speakers on those themes if possible.

Mark also mentioned a new topic idea - Trail creation and maintenance. This could include walking/x-country skiing trails as well as forestry/logging trails. Ideally we'd find someone with professional experience in the area to introduce some of the fundamentals of trail creation including - selecting a route, following gentle grades as much as possible, crossing/navigating intersections with creeks, streams, etc; maintenance, etc. The goal would be to better educate attendees about trail design and maintenance, provide them with useful information to help guide their own trail work, and share best management practices (as well as things to avoid). Perhaps a rep from MALT or the Green Mountain Club?

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

This could either be a stand alone event or part of the Naturalist series.

We discussed hosting a 1.5-2 hour weekend morning event on the subject. Susan has 2 potential patches of apple trees and will examine their suitability. Any NHCC members who have possible candidates for release (with easy access for a group of 5-15 people and not surrounded by tall tree canopy requiring the felling and skidding of larger trees) may also be good hosts for this event.

- Conservation Reserve Fund

Both Susan and Mark felt Taborrhi's draft document feels like a reasonable and agreeable proposal for the town conservation reserve fund. We would be happy to act as an advisory group and allow the select board to ultimately determine how funds are allocated.

The only items we suggested adding with the exception of minor wording/framing changes, were to also encourage applications that would support private landowner's conservation type projects like tree planting, riparian buffer creation, creating/preserving wildlife corridors, etc. Also, Mark pointed out that there's no mention of educational programming for students and community members and that these types of initiatives would be worth recipients of these funds.

Both Susan and Mark will follow up with Taborrhi and share their thoughts and feedback.

- Next Meeting Date

December 20 is the 3rd Thursday of the next month, so it seems unlikely we'll meet in December due to the holidays. January 17 would be the next '3rd Thursday' and this should likely be our next meeting date. Ideally we are able to schedule an Armchair speaker for January in the mean time.

Meeting adjourned at 8pm.