

August 18, 2016
Cambridge Conservation Commission
August Minutes

In Attendance: Justin, Jean, Tim, Holly, Lucy
Not in Attendance: John, Justin, Don, Sarah

6:10 July minutes approved

- Jean motions to approve; Holly seconded.
- After connecting with Mark, Jean helps us remember some guidelines about taking minutes.
- New plan to send Justin our agenda points before he writes the agenda.

Sundog Money Reallocation:

- Last meeting, we voted to allocate funds to Sundog Poetry for watershed poetry camp. The camp is no longer occurring, but Sundog is looking to use funds for another project:
 - Partnering with Cambridge Elementary (Mary Fiedler's 5/6 class) and Project WET to create watershed poetry enrichment course. Held Fall 2016 for either 6 weeks or a semester. Pilot program.
 - The goal is to increase science exploration and knowledge, community resiliency and to create original artwork.
 - Would meet Common Core standards and is aligned with New Generations Science Program.
 - Our funding would be part of larger funding pool. Could this course also be offered to homeschoolers, other students/kids?
 - Jean votes to reallocate funds; Holly seconds. All are in favor.

Trail Allocation and Updates:

- Jean spoke with Mark: The trails allocation deposited into the CCC account was \$840 more than expected. The Trails Coalition had originally requested \$3,580. After we had submitted CCC's 2016 budget for the Town Report (listing \$3,580), the TC notified us that their request got scaled back to \$2,740 (the amount posted in CCC's final budget). The deposit was for the amount listed in the Town Report, hence the discrepancy.
 - The larger amount of funds may come in handy as there have been a number of repairs to the bike path this year.
 - Laird is satisfied with how management of TC funds through the CCC is going.

Storm Water Project:

- Received and paid first bill. Watershed Consulting Association has completed phase one and is working on phase two.

- Rainwater garden installation will be next year: don't currently have all of the pieces to design correct one. More constraints from the state (for work near the river), but the consultants are undaunted!

Region Conservation Commission Meeting in Lamoille County:

- September 14 (Weds) from 5:30 – 7:30 at 52 Portland St., Morrisville
- Held to explore collaborations, come up with new ideas, and create mapping projects.
- Maybe a clean water group to help LCPC?

More Trail-Related Things

- CDAC meeting August 24: 6:00 at Town Hall.
 - Potential Rt. 15 crosswalk, east past roundabout towards Johnson (by bridge)
 - Jean has a few points she will bring up at meeting: Is it safe? Up near bridge, traffic from roundabout; will flood mitigation culvert make crosswalk moot?
 - Potential path from crosswalk to connect to Community Center: could also have a nice park down by the Brewster/opposite end from the Farmer's Market.
- Trails Transportation Grant
 - V Trans Alternative Transportation Grant: 50% reserved for environmental projects: storm waters and highways. Also for vegetation management along roadways to mitigate invasive species; reducing road kill; nature/wildlife corridors.
 - Could the crosswalk be part of this? Something to bring up to the planning commission? Talk of a gravel path from Community Center down Old Main, across to the Farmers' Market area and to the crosswalk.
 - Deadline for grant is October 20th.

Next Meeting is Sept. 8

Other Business; Nature Report

- Tim saw blue heron yesterday and today. Was able to get about 5 - 10 feet away. Dog went after it once. It is not a statue.
- One of Holly's white chickens survived death once (twice?) after attaining broken wing and being forgotten during butchering. Met its fate later that night in the mouth of a coyote.
- Gussie the Goose is doing well and has taken to its flock of ducks and Noah. Is now making honking noises. Waiting to see if it will attempt southern migration with impending fall weather. To reiterate, it is legal to have a Canadian Goose.
- Jean was at her ornamental lily pond when she scared a frog. She began to talk to the frog and frog sat on lily pad to listen before jumping all around.

- Holly's daughter befriended a frog, showed it to her sister, who showed it to Marlene the duck. Marlene ate the frog. Jean secures title of frog whisperer.

7:00 Jean motions to adjourn meeting. Justin seconds. All are in favor. Meeting is adjourned.