

Conservation & Trails Committee. (CTC)
Essex Town Office, 81 Main Street, Essex, Vermont

Draft Minutes: Tuesday 04/09/2024

Present: Ken Signorello, Chair; Morgan Kirk, Clerk; Steve Dowd; Bino Cummings; Betsy Dunn; Erin De Vries (late); and Kent Johnson.

Remote: Shannon Jackson, Vice Chair (late); April Petersen

Absent: None

Members of the Public: Paul Davis

Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM

Conservation & Trails Committee

1. AGENDA CHANGES AND APPROVAL

Add in Report Item: Emerald Ash borer as "A".

Motion to approve the amended agenda: Bino

Second: Betsy

Vote y/n: 6/0

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- a. None, Paul Davis chose not to comment on anything.

3. DEVELOPMENT REVIEW

a. 108 Colchester Road, may need landscaping in the driveway area. Nothing for CTC to comment on at this time.

b. 21 Essex Way: CTC would like to see more green space; and more biking/walking access.

4. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Approve Minutes from March 12, 2024.

Two spelling errors fixed.

Betsy: moves

Steve: seconds

Vote: y/n: 8/0

b. Approve Tree Nursery MOU recommendation to the Selectboard

Steve presents his draft.

Shannon suggests increasing the amount the MOU is asking for. It will be nice to have a buffer for unforeseeable events.

Steve to add a picture, memo, fix wording to include Town of Essex.

c. Produce Promotional Material for Open Land/Farm Contract

Suggestions to include testimonials, a list of candidates. Erin asked Kent if there is a template for CTC (header, icon etc.) to use to start this draft. Nothing to do today. This will be brought up at the next meeting for someone to make up a draft to present

1. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

a. Emerald ash borer

Shannon presents on this.

Ken motions for Shannon to lead a project to update Meadows Edge's street tree inventory and recommend trees for removal.

Second: Betsy

Vote y/n: 8/0

Reminder: to count hours when working on tree related tasks.

Shannon will make a google document in the shared drive for a place to log tree related task hours.

b. VTrans Culvert Projects in the Town of Essex

Morgan will write a memo about improving culvert access under 289. An improvement that supports ACT 171, flooding, and pedestrian access to schools and developments.

1. Essex Bridge 2 on VT Route 15

2. Essex Bridge 17A on VT Route 289

3. Essex Bridge 11 on VT Route 2A

4. Jericho Bridge 6A on VT Route 15

c. Arbor Day Update

Sarah Salantino will be our supervisor from Full Circle Garden; she will help us plant the tree as well as donating supplies. Tree is donated by Horseford Garden because of the Greening Day school grant. Heritage is also donating some supplies. Our town Arbor Day is May 3rd, unknown time.

Shannon, Ken, Steve, and Bino will plan on digging a hole on April 30th; pick up tree at 3PM and dig hole about 5PM (Morgan is available that Tuesday is a backup). Backup day is May 2nd.

Arbor Day Proclamation will be available on April 15th Selectboard meeting. We will be able to read it on Arbor Day.

d. Open Board Seat on Tree Farm Management Group

Currently managed by a not for profit organization. Looking for residential seat on board. If anyone is interested a member of CTC should apply.

e. Pollinator Garden

Betsy reports on this.

Developed on Prairie field.

Betsy will reach out to the Principle of the school and Ali about who owns garden. Morgan will help with Pollinator tasks. Betsy will keep committee informed of date.

Ken added for Bino to report on 117

Ken: motioned

Second: Morgan

Vote y/n: 8/0

f. Report on getting land purchased off 117 for boat launch.

Bino will write a memo on purchasing the land for a small park to allow boat access.

Lauren Cullen (previous committee member); Ken asked her to look into this property. Hopefully we will have more information by next meeting.

g. CTC Work Plan Update

1. READING FILE

a. Celebrate Arbor Day Guide Book

useful fro quotes in memo

Committee added comments

-Have a google "drive" thru

-IBR clean up day Saturday, May 11th. LOG HOURS

- Trimming of trails

- Buckthorn control

- clean up culverts

- erosion concern CTC or Parks and Recreation? May not be addressed this year, bc of time.

Adjourn at 8:22PM

Betsy: Moves

Bino : Seconds