

Guilford Conservation Meeting Minutes May 21, 2015

Attending: Bevan Quinn, Susan James, Marli Rabinowitz, Linda Hecker, Linda Lembke, Karen Murphy, Gabby Ciuffreda

Not attending: Rory Lincoln, Bill Jewell

Meeting called to order at 5:05.

Motion to accept April 16, 2015 minutes was approved.

The members discussed using the “reply all” button judiciously so as not to overload inboxes.

Linda Lembke, with the help of many of the GCC members and Gabby Ciuffreda, submitted an AVCC Tiny Grants application on May 15th. The grant proposes that the GCC will work with several town partners to develop and interpret the .5-mile brook trail in Weeks Forest in Guilford Center. Two goals of this project are to inspire the formation of a town Trails Committee and to serve as a model for future trail development. We generated a list of potential trail committee members.

Review of Melendy Hill walk: Linda Hecker, Susan James and Anne Montgomery heard many birds, including a black-billed cuckoo, enjoyed wild columbine, mixed hardwoods and a mossy stream.

Update on Natural Resources Inventory: Susan James spoke to her research in engaging professional help, grant potentials, and a timeline on moving forward on this important project. Part of the work can be done by GCC members such as researching agricultural land and interviewing local residents in identifying special areas and resources.

A motion was made and accepted to start working on this project this year. We need approval from the select board to do this. Susan offered to contact John Bennett at WRC for help in writing a Municipal Planning Grant.

Chris Polatin contacted Linda Lembke about developing a garlic mustard control program in southern Vermont. A poll of GCC members reported few instances of garlic mustard in Guilford, so Linda encouraged Chris to contact the Dummerston Conservation Commission where garlic mustard is widespread. DCC will contact GCC about any future workshops. All on the GCC are concerned about the spread of Knotweed especially along our roads and in Guilford Center.

Forest Stewardship: Jeff Nugent from the WRC has requested a meeting with the public, GCC members, Planning Commission members and the select board to go over the ANR maps and GIS mapping.

We discussed having walks on trails in nearby towns, to see how other towns do trails. The Pinnacle was mentioned as a possibility, but we discussed and made plans to hike the Indian Pond Trail and Ann Stokes loop near Madame Cherie's in Chesterfield on Saturday, June 20th. Meet at the Price Chopper parking lot (near People's United Bank). Please check the following website for a good description of the trails and possible loops: www.chesterfieldoutdoors.com/madame-sherri-forest.

The next meeting is on June 18 at 5 PM in the town office.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Murphy
Clerk Guilford Conservation Commission