

HARDWICK CONSERVATION COMMISSION
DRAFT MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 24, 2020 MEETING

Present: Jerry Schneider, Norma Wiesen, Rachel Kane, Ken Davis, Ben Pougner, Judy Bellairs

Absent: Judith Ruskin, Renaud Demers

Motion by Norma, seconded by Ken to approve the February 2020 minutes. Approved.

Commission Membership. Judy announced that she is no longer eligible to be on the Commission since she no longer resides in Hardwick and Vermont Statutes require that members be residents of the Town. Therefore, the Commission should appoint a new Secretary/Treasurer. Since the Commission now consists of 7 members, the Select Board should be asked to appoint two new members. It was noted that, because of the pandemic, some members' terms have not been renewed: Ben, Norma and Jerry. They will contact the Town about being reappointed.

Tree Giveaway. This did not happen as scheduled because of the pandemic. We can schedule it for next spring.

Canopy Grant. This was cancelled because of the pandemic. Rachel will look into getting it again next year. We could still mulch the crabapple trees with cardboard and mulch. Ken can donate and deliver cardboard and Rachel will see about borrowing a truck for mulch. Rachel, Jerry and Ben volunteered to work on the mulching project. Rachel will let the Town know about our plans.

Meeting Place. There is a possibility of meeting at Grace Church. Jerry will check with them. The Memorial Room is also a possibility. Ken will check to see if it is available for the third Tuesday.

GMTCC. Ken met with Megan Luther. There are currently 6 forestry students and there will be 5 more next year. They tap about 2,000 trees on 100 acres and earn \$20,000-24,000 in income that is used for equipment and upkeep. Ben also spoke with her to discuss whether a demonstration plot for forest management could be established. It was suggested we could all meet with her to discuss forest management issues.

Norma suggested that now would be a good time to figure out what our focus should be. There was considerable interest in focusing our work on trees.

Rachel suggested that the next agenda should include discussion of a natural resources inventory.

Action items:

Rachel: Contact the Town about mulching, look into borrowing a truck for mulch. Check to see about a canopy grant for next year.

Jerry: Check with Grace Church about a meeting place.

Ken: Check with the Town about meeting in the Memorial Room.

Submitted by Judy Bellairs

Next meeting (tentative): **October 20, 2020**