

Starksboro Conservation Commission August Meeting
Monday, August 26, 5:30 pm
Starksboro Public Library
Draft Minutes by AMW

Members present: Margi Gregory, Robert Turner, Jan McCleery, Alice Weston

Meeting called to order at 5:43 by Chair, Margi Gregory.

Previous Draft of Minutes of 6/24/23 and 8/8/24 were reviewed and accepted unanimously as prepared.

Agenda/Discussion

1. *Updates on getting help to deal with invasive plants in the fall*

Community engagement fair at Middlebury College on Sept 17th (rain date 18th). There's also a course around community engagement with required hours in community. Can request teams and other groups to come. Can also make requests directly to biology students. Fran Putnam works closely with the Environmental Club. United Way may also be an option. Margi and Jan will be at the table for the fair.

Extracting large invasive shrubs. Knotweed cutting. 4 hours. Proposed dates: October 5, October 26th, November 9th all 12:00-4:00. We will bring tools and extra gloves.

2. *Update on rebuilding the berm between the parking lot and the Creekside Trail. Also the bridge.* Robert mentioned the bridge to Rebecca to see if it can be included on the FEMA award. No update from Sports Committee on the berm.

3. *Building a bench in honor of Jennifer Turner.* Robert recommended a stone bench. Jan shared about a grant and workshop to build Leopold bench. Jan will find out if SCS can register for a bench. Jan will share dates of the workshop.

4. *Update on an informational meeting in the winter to understand Starksboro's fluvial events.* Margi contacted Dennis Casey on the Planning Commission to offer this opportunity to hold an informational meeting. Robert also spoke to Dan Nugent. We are waiting to hear back from Planning Commission. Margi also wrote to Kristen Underwood and she was willing to be involved in this. She would discuss Starksboro alluvial fans and geologic context, history of flooding in Starksboro, how local watershed has fared in recent floods, and potential flooding mitigation techniques. Margi will contact Starksboro historical society (Ruth Beecher chair) about partnering with SCS on that. If it happens, can also potentially partner with Lewis Creek Association.

5. *Plan to update the bylaws.* Robert has made some edits with Herb Olson's comments. We need to spend an hour reviewing and finalizing. Will be scheduled sometime this winter.

6. *Signs at the Creekside Trail. Other Creekside Trail maintenance.* Not putting out the signs on the trail, due to state of the trail currently. There are signs on the bridges. Norm has been mowing the trail. There is also a big hole on the west side of the bridge. Alice will text Kevin about marking that hole as a first step.

Next Meeting: Monday, September 23 5:30-7:00 Starksboro library

Agenda for next meeting- plan invasives work sessions, update fluvial event informational session, berm, bridge.

Adjournment: 6:53