

Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 19, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.
Benjamin Eddy Building

A. *Call to order/Roll call*

Meeting called to order at 6:35 P.M

Members in attendance: Rathbun, McClellan, Horton, Lapre, Therrien, Zahansky, Galligan

B. *Approval of Minutes January 2024*

Action: Minutes approved: Therrien/Zahansky; Motion Carried unanimously

C. *Reports*

- *Land Trust Liaison*

Dennis shared updates – Brush clearing at Dunbar Dam; delay in some of work due to the weather; update on engineering for the dam; looking for specs on for overflow spillway

- *Recycling Liaison*

No update

- *Social Media Liaison*

Kathy updated on the current number of followers – up to 513 (+8 from last month); recent posts on layering plants; URI water testing; FHJ article on turf grass v. native grass, wildflowers for pollinators; April articles and posts will be Earth Day specific

D. *Public Comments*

No Public comment

E. *Correspondence*

No correspondence

F. *Old Business*

Conservation Overlay District – Reference back to the Master Plan – Dave will contact the Town Planner

Old Home Days Recycling – Rambone will look into having 10-12 bins at OHD; Dave will update the Committee with the news

Budget update – expenditure for Earth Day FHJ AD – 1/4 page; full page will be in the March edition; Dennis will follow up with the Land Trust on the \$500 donation request though feels this shouldn't be an issue.

Earth Day updates:

Ads – ads in other media beyond the FHJ and Facebook were discussed – bargain buyer/Valley Breeze; pass sat this time – stick to the current methods

T-shirt update – Kathy will update the numbers – maroon color with white or gold lettering

Plant update – Both Lauren and Ginny were both in attendance; perennials – birds and butterfly friendly – last year we did 20 flats of 10's; an assortment of milkweed, beebalm, foxglove, sea lavender, coneflower, columbine...; annuals - veggies were popular – some herb 18 flats, 144 6 packs; both Lauren and Ginny were happy to be there to share the word on the businesses, sell some other product, and connect with others for future opportunities

Free Yard Sale – Tony will oversee setup/ plan the location for traffic flow; Discussion of whether any remaining items are able to be donated – some are not possible

Bins – Dave will reach out to Sue to request 100 bins/stickers, will contact Lou for shredding

Vendor List – we reviewed the vendor list and updated information as well as brainstormed some other potential options

G. *Additions to Agenda*

No additions to the agenda

H. *New Business*

Bob discussed the Dark Skies Initiative and will set up a table at the Earth Day events; promote the initiative with literature, promote proper lighting – will include some photos and some comparisons; Kathy noted that Charlestown has an ordinance – the Council and/or Planning Board have this as part of their current review of development

I. *Future Agenda Items*

- Earth Day Planning (March agenda likely exclusive to the event)

J. *Future Conservation Commission Projects*

- Town Ordinance re: Dark Skies

K. *Adjournment*

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

Zahansky/McClellan; Motion Carried Unanimously

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED on behalf of the Commission,

M. Galligan, Recording Secretary
