



Randolph Conservation Commission

Tuesday, May 2, 2023 at 6:00pm
Conference Room B at Town Hall

In attendance: Courtney Gately, Ian Blackmer, Jessamyn West, Chandler Engel, Rachel Westbrook, visitor

Meeting called to order 6:04

Minutes

Minutes approved unanimously.

Outreach

Emily will be looking into a possible bear program.

Bat talk Weds May 3. ORCA Media will be recording it. We have about 15-20 in person RSVPs and 15-20 maybe Zooming. We have the ability to pay Barry for this event and we'll check in with him at the event if this is something he wants (either getting paid or getting a gift card of some sort).

Ellis Update

Rachel met with town and water department and Ridgeline about reservoir work, they are still waiting to finalize the contracts this week we don't know when reservoir work will be starting. Plans should be more or less the same as we saw last year (new well house, new reservoir tank, some fencing around it). Work will affect access to main trail and possibly require re-routing and signage. Ridgeline is aware of this and should be taking the lead on changes that need to be happening. Parking area access likely affected but we won't know until we see the contract. Chandler asked if they had a

plan for parking. Rachel said they discussed this and it's still up in the air. The town is aware that it's a recreation area and that they may need to handle temporary parking. Timeline to completion is something like 240 days. Town is all set with having approval from the land trust.

Discussion of fencing some of the area on the left across from where the trash can used to be as a butterfly habitat, and also **Jessamyn** will check in with Brian Lowe about the kestrel box(es). Chandler suggested snow fencing as highly visible and often used for that sort of thing. **Rachel** will email Trevor to get more specifics about that. **Jessamyn** will look into Trailforks and see if there's a way to indicate that there is construction once it's gotten started.

Sayward Update

Emails came through with AJ the County Forester. Trevor and the town have signed a contract to work with AJ so that AJ has an official relationship with the town of Randolph. The next piece of this would be starting with marking/layout of the areas to be logged. Logger tour hopefully happening in August. AJ suggested a "negotiated mill tally" (loggers show up to see the area and determine what they would sell it for). This process is underway.

AJ is hoping to do public outreach in July—onsite walk, letting people know what is going on—choosing a logger in September based on their suggestions and starting the harvest in this winter. Harvest could possibly take two winters to do a full harvest depending on how cold the winter is. Also looking at another public outreach in October and maybe a winter walk to let people know what's going on.

Right now, nothing else is needed from RCC.

Question about whether money from the timber harvest goes to the town fund or is specifically earmarked for RCC stuff. We'll follow up with **Brendan** and possibly Trevor to try to clarify. **Ian** will follow up with Emery also to ask.

Old Business

Chandler talked to Sam Hooper from RACDC to try to get clarification about the flood plain forest and who oversees it. **Rachel** mentioned that the Town Forest area by the Southview cemetery may have some trees down that interfere with the walking paths. She'll follow up with the town to see if it's something they can take care of.

New Business

No new business.

Meeting adjourned at 6:37 and the room was set up for the Bat Talk happening the following evening.