

# Conservation Commission

## Meeting Minutes

February 6, 2024

Erving Public Library, 2 Care Drive

Members in attendance: Chair, Mark Blatchley, Rinky Black, David Brule, Michele Turner

Members Absent: Carie Berg

**Call to Order:** The meeting was opened at 6:04pm by Chairperson Mark Blatchley.

**Welcome New Member:** Maureen "Rinky" Black was welcomed to the Commission with fresh fruit, vegetables, and other snacks in honor of gaining a new member.

✓ **Review December Meeting Minutes:** This item was passed over. The minutes of the November and December meetings will be reviewed when Carie returns or if she has a chance to send them ahead of the next meeting.

### **Education Projects:**

- The Winter Tracking Event was lightly attended by about 5 people. Tracks spotted were of fox, fisher, coyotes, deer, squirrel, shrew and others.
- Salamanders will be out and about soon.
- Bird Hike in the Spring – over 100 birds were counted last year at Poplar Mtn Cons Area.

**Support for School Field Trips (Finance Committee Opinion):** the recommendation of the Finance was No.

✓ **Certificates of Completion:** Mark will follow up to see that we have Certificates of Completion handled for the following properties: Wheelock Street, Maple Street and Mountain Road

**Extension Signing:** The Approved Extension for Flagg Hill Road has been picked up from Town Hall by the applicant, Jeffrey Dubai and will need to be filed at the Registry of Deeds by the applicant.

### **Poplar Mountain Projects:**

- Purchase Hand Tools – expected to cost around \$250. On a motion by Mark, seconded by David the Commission **VOTED unanimously to approve \$250 to purchase tools.**
- Shed for Storage of Current and New Equipment – Mark will investigate options.
- Spring Work Project – yet to be determined. Rough Maintenance of the trail is needed.

### **Hikes to Plan for this Winter and Spring:**

- Discussed some of this already under Education Projects – Bird Hike in the Spring with talk in the evening and walk in the woods the following day.

**How to Better Publicize:** We discussed the need to "piggyback" on other clubs and organizations and town departments to help spread the news about programming and hikes: As well as planning in advance to get the word out and not being discouraged if attendance seems low as it takes time to build a core group.

**Next Article for Around Town:** Michele will draft for review of Commission, finalize, and submit to Around Town.

### **Cooperative Activity Funding:**

- Gardens at School/Library/Senior and Community Center - hoping to help get native plants into these, or any gardens.
- Ricardi with Friends of Library – no confirmation yet but should be a go.
- Geocaching Intro at Library – upcoming program with P. Johnson, talk at library. Exploration of local areas including Poplar Mountain Conservation Area.
- Police Department – Children's program – Officer Gordon has been the contact not sure if this will happen.

**Education for Members:** MACC conference and/or courses. There is money in the budget for members to pursue education. There are many opportunities for online training courses during the lunchtime hour.

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**All Topics Unanticipated at the Time of Posting:** David brought up that years ago the Commission would sponsor tree planting. He shared an idea of Graduating 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes choosing a tree to plant. The Cons Comm also discussed the idea of planting fruit trees on public land if this is possible.

**Adjournment:** On a motion by Michele, seconded by David, the Commission **VOTED unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:25pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Turner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michele Turner", written over a horizontal line.