

**THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION of the TOWN OF HALIFAX**  
**P.O. BOX 127, WEST HALIFAX, VT 05358**  
**Conservation Commission **DRAFT** Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, April 22, 2021 6:30 PM**  
**Earth Day**

Meeting on Zoom (Location: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7814490827> or call +19292056099,,7814490827#)

**Attendees:** Stephan Chait (Chair; SC), Jess Cooney (JC), Dov Towler (DT), Linda Huebner (Treasurer; LH), Laurel Copeland (Clerk; LC), Lesley Pollitt (LP), Mary Horne (MH), Andrea Rand (AR), David Erickson (DE), Pete Silverberg (PS), Linda Lyon (LL).

**CALL TO ORDER at 6:32 pm**

**CHANGES AND/OR ADDITIONS TO AGENDA** – 2 items were added (bird banding; letter)

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

March 23, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes were approved.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Conservation Commission Membership and Organization – The Select Board voted to postpone appointments until June when the newly expanded 5-member board can participate. LH was appointed for 1 year and has already served 2 years. LP has offered to step onto the HCC in her place, but this will have to wait until June. Chair, Clerk, and Treasurer are required; we will elect these officers in June.

Potential Environmental Funding– letter from Vermont Legislative Caucus. Could this money be used to build beaver diversion at culverts? AR commented that the persistent problem regards the beaver pond in the Village, and that this is a problem with flooding yards rather than flooding roads. Thus, a beaver diverter would not solve the problem. SC asked if the funds could be used to address the problem in some other way and to improve educational benefit to the school.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Report on Site Visit at School (DE)

Update on School's work on and interest in outdoor teaching space – DE talked with Joel Howes who suggested assigning areas to each classroom. JC, Chum Sumner, Sandy Pentak-Cohen were also involved. The teachers have staked out the five proposed areas. The Conservation Commission is asked to work on the two bridges in the northern area; debris is piling up there. Joan & Wayne Courser and Tara & Jason might know more about the bridges. AR reported that Wayne said the bridges are on Bill property spanning to Courser property. They were built by a third party for snowmobiles. The current property owners do not want the bridges. The Conservation Commission might be involved in dismantling the bridges. The school might also be interested in help from the Conservation Commission with some education activities and in posting the school boundaries. PS commented that there is a little guidance at present as to how funds will be used to address climate change. LL said she could talk to the local Audubon group if a bird survey were wanted.

Beavers Educational Flyer – Production and Mailing Costs and Logistics – The flyer and cover letter text has been finalized. Color letter costs a little more than black & white. SC has a question about the salutation: should we change “Dear Residents of Halifax” to something else? “Dear Halifax Neighbors,” “Greetings, Neighbors,” “Dear Halifaxians,” and “Dear Haligonians” were suggested. LL liked LP’s “Dear Halifax Neighbors.” Please email SC with your preferences. Now targeting May meeting for envelope-stuffing and mailing.

Green Burials – no update regarding Cara Cheyette checking into the legal status or limitations on green burials.

Charging Stations for Electric Vehicles (EV) – Ray Combs asked SC about EV effect on gas tax road repairs funds. This is a question of interest at all levels of government. EV batteries are made with lithium among other things, and lithium is not environmentally unfriendly, using a lot of water or else exploited labor force (abroad) to mine. The environmental impact of rechargeable batteries is worth considering. DE wondered if a potential new business could include an EV charge station.

Green-up Day 2021 May 1 – JC reported that Shaw’s sent a coupon for refreshments; flyers are up; bags will be available. Patty Dow has a map and will assign people to roads so as to cover the Town. The bags will be at the Town Clerk Office when they come in. You can also get a bag at the Town Clerk on May 1<sup>st</sup> starting at 9am until 11 or so. DT’s daughter wondered if she could do Tucker Road. JC took note. Please help get the word out!!!!  
Possible Materials for Halifax Elementary School – no update.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Bird Banding – DE: Eric Slayton is organizing bird banding this May again; his first round was last fall. He sets up mist nets to catch birds, then bands them and releases them. It is a very interesting and informative effort. The birds are carefully handled but some injury may occur (none last year). More volunteers are needed! Contact: Eric Slayton [eric.slayton@me.com](mailto:eric.slayton@me.com).

Wooly adelgids – were they spotted on Hubbard Hill Road. These are invasive pests that attack Eastern Hemlocks which have no resistance to them. DT commented that he has seen them in Brattleboro; some trees are heavily infested.

**HEARING OF VISITORS** – MH offered to help with flyer stuffing & stamping. AR offered discounted envelopes. LP commented that on Amidon there is a Beaver Deceiver that is within the Town (in addition to the one on Pennel Hill).

**ADJOURNMENT at 7:38 pm.**