

Minutes of the Environmental Resource Comm. Aug. 20, 2020 via Zoom

Present: Doug Smith, Diane Aromando, Tony Hodgdon, Alicia Howes, Joanne McKee, Morgan Rocheleau

The meeting came to order at 6 pm.

Minutes of the July meeting were approved.

Parks and Recreation:

Morgan updated us on the Parks and Recreation budget stating that even though our Committee does not have a line in the budget, there is money available for our use. The newly established enterprise account does not affect our Committee. The Town Manager wishes to start reviewing items for the 2021-2020 budget in Sept. The members felt it would be helpful to her and Morgan if we could write up a budget for our proposed needs. Before our Sept. meeting, we will all suggest items to be included.

Fairgrounds:

Mulch still has to be applied to the pollinators' garden and around the apple trees and the bushes planted outside the garden. Morgan said that we may be able to have help for this from the high school community service group. He will contact the coordinator for possible times and then we will set a date for working. Two to three hours should be enough time to complete the work. No new plantings will be done there this year.

News for the NGXchange and public displays:

How to control moles and Japanese beetles, and information about ticks were put on the site this past month. Some the information that was put on the web site in previous years is still appropriate and can be found in the archives of the NGXchange. We can review these to be sure they are still current and then have them posted at various times. List of previous information: How to season wood, Paintcare, brown tail moth, sources for identifying garden pests, low cost ways to button up your house, value of ants in your garden, guidelines for disposing of Christmas wrappings at the transfer station, App available to reduce food waste, etc. There are probably a few more.

The need to promote the Pollinators garden more was discussed. Doug will print the updated list of plants and put them in the mailbox. I usually

put in only 20 at a time. Perhaps a virtual video tour can be done, as well as a series of photos on the NGXchange web site. Joanne will check to see what she has for past photos from when the garden was started.

The extension service has a program for registering pollinators' gardens and Alicia will fill out the application for the fairgrounds garden. This will allow us to have a plaque there. We are already registered on the national web site. We can encourage residents to register their gardens.

There is also a monarch site for registering your garden after filling out the application. This might be a Spring project and we will look into it further. The site also has flats of various types of milkweed for sale.

Comprehensive Plan update:
No public review has been done yet.

Stevens Pond reconstruction:
Our Committee would like to be included in this issue and Doug will make the Town Manager aware of this. Beverly Cadigan sent some information to us for review.

Sabbathday Lake Assoc.:
Requests from SLA to the Town for help with the erosion problem have not been answered.
Doug will ask Dick Allen to be the liaison between SLA and our committee.

New Business:
Doug will ask the Town Manager to attend the beginning of our our next meeting.

Tabled: Lower Village Project, possible "Garden Talk " during next summer.

The next meeting will be Sept 9 via Zoom if that time is available.
The meeting adjourned at 7:15pm

Respectively submitted,
Joanne McKee, Secretary