

Minutes from Berlin Conservation Commission

March 5, 2020 2:00 pm

In Attendance: Phil Gentile, Ellen Sulek, Tom Willard, JC Earle, Sister Laurian Seeber

Guests: Andrea Chandler, Wendy Bolles, Rob Labert (?)

Speaker: Jens Hilke, Vermont Fish and Wildlife

Director of Community Wildlife Programs

Presentation:

Biological Diversity in Vermont

Questions and Possible ideas for BCC to persue:

- *Clarity of the problem (identify issues)
- *What is the need in Berlin?
- *What is our broad vision for success?
- *Need to overlap with other commissions in town
- *Need to celebrate and have fun: food
- *Whole town natural community map costly if hired out, but good for town planning. Citizen science can collect local data but will take longer.
- *Community Values Mapping (invite as many people as possible) to find allies and provide a focus
- *Biofinder (website) explains the science of what's most important to protect, preserve: ecological priorities. Good resource.
- *Community values + ecological priorities= high public value

Things to consider as we move forward:

- *Visit <https://vtforettrends.vnrc.org/> Parcelization in towns and development future
- *Joining The Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions (are we already members?) would allow us to apply for small grants annually
- *Explore Community networking-who can we use to help move conservation forward?
- *Forge relationships
- *Create Time tables
- *List town resources and use them
- *Pizza for planning

*Walks and talks planning for the year-Community walks in town forest, conserved land

*Intentionality: Theme and common messages to all groups

*Community values mapping in school (Classrooms?) Jens will facilitate in school and evening event with adults

*Create a brand that helps community members identify BCC (“Berlin Wild” as an example)

*Promote that BCC working in the town’s best interest, build trust

Meeting adjourned 4:00PM

Next meeting: May 14, 2020

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Sulek