

Berkshire Conservation District Monthly Meeting  
Wednesday, October 7, 2020 at 5:00 PM  
Remote Meeting  
Call-in number: 1(646) 876-9923 Meeting ID: 505 943 8770 #

**Minutes from October 7, 2020 Meeting**

1. Call to Order at 5:05pm, and Determination of Quorum  
Present:  
Supervisors: Adam Galambos, Ron Kujawski, Donna Kittredge, Ned Kirschner  
Program Administrator: Cynthia Grippaldi  
NRCS Representative: Gary Blazejewski
2. Public Comment Period  
Adam checked the waiting room and no members of the public were present.
3. NRCS Report/Comments
  - Gary reported met with the general contractor doing the renovation on first floor. From November 30 – Dec 4 there will be movers available at that time. BCD needs to boxes up items in order to be moved. NRCS will be shredding papers prior to the move. At our last meeting we discussed if American Farmland Trust might help in recruiting another BCD supervisor — they held a virtual event —Women in Agriculture. They don't want to give out the attendee's names but if we provide a description of the supervisor's roles, they would pass it to attendees.
4. Secretary's Report — Submitted by Donna Kittredge
  - Ron motioned to approve the September 1, 2020 Meeting Minutes, Ned second. All in favor.
5. Treasurer's Report — Submitted by David Ellis  
See September Treasurer's Report for the numbers. Adam called Spectrum and asked about commercial rates for non-profits like us. They are confident they can reduce our rate so Adam will continue looking into a reduction. Our monthly fee is \$96.98. Gary contacted the USDA about possibly using their WiFi and we could only go on as a guest for 5 days.
  - Ron motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report, second. All in favor.
6. District Supervisors
  - Ned continues the application process to become a supervisor to have access to the office but needs to find additional references. It is moving slowly. He assumes it will take another 2 months to finish the application. Adam asked if we wish to continue meeting remotely and because of the continuing Covid issues, we all agreed meeting this way works well.
7. Program Status
  - No-till updates for fiscal 2020: Word of mouth seems to be working best regarding the rentals. MA Farm Bureau newsletter got us one rental and they gave us a glowing review. Today, Cynthia got a call from someone in Norfolk, MA who said there isn't anything like the No-till seeder in his area. The local John Deere place used to have one but no longer does. He has 15 acres and he has a trailer and could drive it out. Ned asked if the no-till is insured for someone other than

Mike to move it. Cynthia said we have equipment insurance but she will double check on it. Martha Jackson is doing an article on Soil Health which will be published in December. Ned asked if she could include something about us doing Nutrient Management and she is interested in doing it in another article

- Nutrient Management: Allison Dixon at HVA has done bacterial levels in the Housatonic. They have identified target farms in those areas and she will go over their data for farms we should be targeting. BEAT has been monitoring the waters as well and they are willing to share their info with us. Ned said a lot of homeowners overload nutrients from over fertilizing their lawns. Cynthia fills out a quarterly report to send to Tom.
- Pollinator Grant: Donna drew up an initial planting plan for the shady section of library. David, Donna and Cynthia met at the library to find a sunnier spot as there are more species of plants that will flower hold flowers longer in sunny conditions. A sunnier area near the handicapped ramp was identified. Library board members rejected our plan because they were afraid library patrons would get stung by bees. Ned said this could be a learning opportunity. Cynthia sent a no-fear pollinator garden pamphlet to the library to help assuage fears to no avail. Ned suggested this could be a good learning opportunity to provide info that contradicts incorrect thinking about how, when and why pollinators sting.

8. Program Administrator Update

- Cynthia left messages for Amy A. And Amy B for information regarding the Spring Tree Sale and is waiting to hear from them.

9. New Business

- BCD Mission Statement: Adam needed to table the second draft of the BCD Mission Statement and Work Plan till November.
- BCD Tree and Plant Sale: Adam mentioned the Tree and Plant Sale and asked if are we planning wisely regarding limited people power and asked if we have enough money to put aside for it. Ned said Amy B could help with more information on the Plant Sale history and that we usually have money in-house before we buy the plant materials. Cynthia asked if we will be following the Worcester District Bulb Sale model. Ned suggested we would need to get plant orders in early December. Ron spoke with Dennis Mareb who said we would need to be ordering by end of December. If we decide to hold the sale, we will be able to vote in November and have time to order plant material by December.

10. Comments and Announcements

- Cynthia will be away from October 19th to the 29<sup>th</sup> but will be accessible through email.

11. Motion to adjourn at 6:15pm by Ron, second by Ned, all in favor.