

**Berkshire Conservation District
Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, February 23, 2022
4:30pm at Berkshire Athenaeum**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87599054766>

**Join By Phone: (301) 715-8592
Webinar ID: 875 9905 4766**

Special Planning Meeting

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting will be conducted via Zoom. Members of the public are welcome to speak only during the Public Comment Period. If you wish to make a comment, please use the “raise hand” feature. Please state your name and the town you reside in for the record. All meetings of the Berkshire Conservation District are open to the public and are subject to Massachusetts Open Meeting Laws. This meeting will be recorded.

1. Call to order at 4:42pm and Determination of Quorum
Present: Supervisors: Adam Galambos (Chair), Ron Kujawski (Vice Chair), David Ellis (Treasurer), Donna Kittredge (Secretary)
Program Administrator: Cynthia Grippaldi
Plant Sale Coordinator: Lou Kratt
2. Public Comment Period
No members of the public were present. Adam closed the public comment period at 4:45pm.
3. FY22 Innovative Grant Planning Session
This was a continuation of our planning meeting held on January 5, 2022 and was held to determine plans for our activities during 2022 using our Grant proposal as an outline.
 - I. **Pollinator garden**
 - The location will be in North Adams near the Braytonville Playground (wetland area)
 - The new pollinator garden will be planted in September after the plant sale and will utilize leftover plants from Native Plant Sale
 - We need to do a site visit. How much prep work? Will need volunteers
 - The flood shoots in the dam area need to be accessible to the Army Corps of Engineers for maintenance
 - Adam is waiting to hear from an administrator of DPW. Green North Adams (willing to match time and labor) will be lending a hand to maintain the new pollinator garden so DPW will not need to be involved. Adam will ask about the mowing schedule
 - Wednesday or Thursday next week Adam will bring it up to N. Adams mayor Jen Macksey
 - We have two prospective associates joining us for our March meeting — one from Pittsfield and one from New Marlborough. They are students in environmental studies and have offered to lend a hand

- Mrs. Riordan elementary teacher likes the idea of having a one pager explaining the value of the plantings. We will provide the material to her
- Making educational kits — a seed package with instructions is one idea

II. Pollinator Friendly Communities Resolutions

- Monterey has a template from us on how to do this
- Each town must pass the resolution at their town meeting
- We should take up Vivian's and Evan Abramson's offers to educate towns regarding alternating mowing schedules and pesticide reduction
- We can decide how much of a relationship we want to have with the towns
- David will talk with town of Washington to gauge interest
- Donna will talk to Claudia Ryan at Richmond to see if they are interested
- Cynthia will follow up with Monterey. She will contact Bee Friendly Williamstown to see if they know of other towns that might be interested

III. Plant Sale

- WCC's site went live for their plant sale — the benefit of selling online is we get cash flow right out of the gate. Lou said we already have the plant list and visual descriptions of each plant. It can be uploaded to the website. Lou could create an existing inventory of sales.
- Look at Lou's order for the bare root. We will be potting them in recycled 1 gallon plastic containers in spring. David, Donna and Lou will care for these plants during the summer
- Bat houses, bluebird houses and mason bee condos will also be available for sale. Adams has already cut the wood for 12 of each. All the wood was donated. Adam's wife is a Girl Scout leader who can employ some of the 6 & 7 year-olds to help assemble
- Cynthia would be processing the sales and Lou would be paying attention to inventory
- Sitka is on board to help expand our website to accommodate online sales
- Need to determine when we start promoting our plant sale
- We can start now for the education components \$5,000
- Ron will mention the sale in his column in May
- Get a platter of wraps and drinks for volunteers on Saturday
- We'll need a sign for the road, a parking sign
- 3 to 4 8-foot tables are needed for info and checkout
- Lou asked if we need to charge MA sales tax. We are a 501C5 or C6 — not tax deductible

IV. On-Farm Pollinator Habitat and Healthy Soils Demo

- Boots on the ground - come join us in early spring to see these farms and how well they are doing
- June/July hands on \$500/visit per farm (\$3500 from BAV will go fast). There's an opportunity to give a stipend or an early bird special \$10/acre instead of \$15 for No-till rentals? For someone new, we might consider eliminating the acre fee. Would they would pay for delivery instead?
- We would like to invite the public to see the No-till in action. Adam will talk with Mike
- Choose a farm in Lanesborough?
- Adam is going to reach out to Dan
- Arthur's Point in Ghent
- Mark at BAV said they are happy to be present at this public event, help coordinate, etc.
- We could possible help host a farm day at Red Shirt Farm, Full Well Farm, and sponsor it.

4. Comments and Announcements
There were no comments or announcements

5. Adjournment
Meeting was adjourned at 6:45pm