

**Berkshire Conservation District
Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, January 5, 2022
5:00pm at the 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 5:08pm and Determination of Quorum

Present: Supervisors: Adam Galambos (Chair), Ron Kujawski (Vice Chair), David Ellis (Treasurer), Donna Kittredge (Secretary), and Ned Kirchner (virtually attended)
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 5:09pm.

3. FY22 Innovative Grant Planning Session

This meeting was held to determine plans for our activities during 2022 using our Grant Proposal as an outline.

GOAL #1: Support Healthy Habitats for All — \$4,750

Method 1: Promote on-farm habitats and support healthy soil practices in collaboration with the agricultural community by hosting and sponsoring presentations, farm tours, live demos, speaker panels and workshops.

-Speaker Panel (Reach out to Glenn & Mark who will help us organize a panel of pollinator habitat specialists)

- Evan Abramson and Vivian Orłowski
- Jim Schultz
- Dr. Kim Skyrn
- Xerces Society
- NRCS

- Williamsburg Apiary
- Pesticide expert

-Time Frame: Mid to late spring; Farm tour: mid summer in July; No-till demo: spring (work with Berkshire Grown on this)

-Farm Tours

- Once per month over the season (series vs. one day)
- When and what time?
- Bussing around? Farm crawl?
- Stipends \$100-250
- Farm tour and live demo: in-person, mid summer, showcase the no-till? Which farms, orchards?

-Stipends

- Soil Health Subsidies – Soil testing
- No-Till Subsidies – Demonstration discount

Method 2: Preliminary budget \$2,400

Design and install a native pollinator demonstration garden in an environmental justice community (North Adams or Pittsfield) and provide educational materials to local educators

-Design and Install - \$1,850

- When – fall or spring?
- Where – Braytonville, Springside in Pittsfield, Pittsfield Beautiful, Springside group? • Who – Ben Lamb, unknown staff, Suzy Helme, Mayor Tyer? Students as volunteers, schools that have partnership potential? Ask Greg C
- Design – potential in-house
 - Materials – plant selection is important. Expand upon Hinsdale Library gardens

-Education and Outreach - \$550

- Facebook, PPC, Eagle/Edge, Radio
- Info packets to local educators Xerces Society, Kim Skyrn, NRCS, UMass Ext, Vivian and Evan
- Q1-Q2

Method 3: Update website and digital library, upgrade on-line store. \$1,000 for Sitka

Method 4: Plant Sale/Community Event - \$6,650 (\$5,000 for plant materials • Who are our partners? BAV, BCC, Greenagers, BNRC, HVA, MCLA/Williams/Simon's Rock, BEAT, MABV, NRCS, BBG (Bridget Stone), Hoffman Bird Club, Adams Aggie, Amy Pulley

- Big E – BCD table at event, MDAR need license to sell
- What info to give visitors?

- Volunteers – Elena at MCLA, Dan, advertise on BCD website
- Date, time and location – Labor Day Weekend, Saturday, September 3, 2022 at Holiday Brook Farm in Dalton. Set up site visit with Dicken
- Equipment needed: tent, tables, cash box, POS, drinks, wagons, list to be continued

Method 5: Outreach and Education

- Municipal calendars, tourism board, Economic development boards
- Audience – farmers, schools, municipalities
- BCD website to include info banner on benefits of fall planting
- Press release WNAW
- Impacts – solicit feedback
- Picture contest
- Tag us on social media

GOAL #2:

Method 1: Pollinator Friendly Resolutions in 3 towns

Method 2:

- Identify 3 towns
- Support public pollinator garden
- Provide matching technical and fiscal assistance
- Town meetings are in May

Method 3:

- Outreach and engagement for pollinator friendly communities

4. Comments and Announcements

Planning will continue next month

5. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm