

Berkshire Conservation District  
Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, May 18, 2022  
Supervisor In-Person Planning Meeting  
Athenaeum Room, Berkshire Athenaeum  
3:30 pm

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

Join By Phone: (301) 715-8592

Webinar ID: 875 9905 4766

This will be an in-person Special Meeting. Anyone unable to attend in person can join with the Zoom link or call in.

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting will be conducted via Zoom Webinar. 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.

**Present:** Supervisors: Adam Galambos (Chair), Ron Kujawski (Vice Chair), David Ellis (Treasurer), Donna Kittredge (Secretary), Ned Kirchner

Associate: Mike Balawender

District Administrator: Cynthia Grippaldi

Guest: Leon Ripley (Chair) Hampden Hampshire Conservation District

### **1. Call to order**

Determination of quorum and meeting began at 3:47pm

### **2. Public Comment Period**

No members of the public were present.

### **3. New Business**

#### **-Grant Opportunity**

Our FY23 Letter of Inquiry for EEA Basic and Innovative Grant Planning Session will be affected by the recent \$100,000 grant opportunity presented by Tom Anderson. The grant would be split by BCD and the Hampden Hampshire Conservation District. We invited Leon Ripley to our meeting to discuss the interests and needs of his District. Leon had visited Mike Balawender to look at our no-till seeder. After discussion about which no-till seeder might be best, Leon said his District is interested in an air seeder or no-till transplanter.

Leon will be seeking funding for a program manager. There was discussion about our district and HHCD sharing a program manager. Adam, Cynthia, Ned and Leon will get together to talk about each district's needs and each district will apply for the grant separately. Cynthia will ask Worcester District what their pay structure is for their program manager.

There was discussion about getting a lime spreader for BCD. Ned suggested it's easier to hire out to get

lime spread. We decided we don't want to add equipment without first having programmatic support. Adam suggested a subsidy program to subsidize healthy soils instead of purchasing a lime spreader. It would allow us to give funds to a farmer without having a piece of equipment. What is a reasonable subsidy rate? NRCS does 50-50. Ned suggested we focus on the smaller hobby farmers with 15 to 20 acre farms. Discussion about this will continue.

#### **-Cynthia's retro pay**

It's up to us as a board, how to compensate Cynthia. Her retroactive pay would be considered a bonus which will be subject to taxes if given as straight cash. Or, it could be given as a gift certificate.

#### **4. Old Business**

##### **-View North Adams Pollinator Garden Sketch**

Donna showed the group a pollinator garden plan she developed to be created around the main sign at the North Adams Armory building. The proposed garden will be 21 feet by 11 feet. She included a plant list and bloom charts showing which plants will be in bloom each month. The plan was well-received. Donna will provide information to Adam who will create a Powerpoint presentation to present to N. Adams mayor Jen Macksey. Adam will contact the mayor's office for a meeting date and Donna will provide information for Adam by May 30<sup>th</sup>.

##### **-No-till planter status**

We continued to talk about liability and a trailer plate. Farm plates can be only used for a farm operation. We currently have 2M liability insurance. We need to talk with Mike about how he understands what the farm plate means and we need to talk with an attorney to figure out if we could be held responsible in the event of a claim that extends beyond our liability limit. We will recommend that Mike talk with a lawyer about the legal ramifications. Adam will ask an attorney about situations where damages or losses extend beyond our 2M liability.

##### **- Targeted mailing vendors for plant sale advertising**

Donna researched companies (Exactdata.com) that can provide targeted mailing lists for the Plant Sale. She found two companies that would charge about \$170 for 2,000 addresses. We could do Boxcar Media in addition to some online advertising.

#### **4. Comments and Announcements**

There were no comments and announcements

#### **5. Adjournment**

Ron motioned to adjourn 6:19pm, second by David. All in favor.