

Danville Conservation Commission Notes (DCC)

Location: Town Hall Meeting

2/07/2022

Attendance: Vange Morse, Barbara Huibregtse, Deb Bixby, Paul Weaver, Jake Langmaid Via zoom: Libby Hillhouse, Patrick Kitchen

1. Welcomed Patrick Kitchen via zoom. Patrick is from Bee the Change, the organization which is working to get every town in VT to find an acre of public land on which they will help set up a pollinator garden. It does not have to be a full acre, it could also be several $\frac{1}{4}$ acre spaces. This should become a “No Mow” area, but its good to have a place that could be mowed around to so it doesn’t get overwhelmed.

A Planting party is usually planned for the 1st or 2nd week of June for volunteers to help and become educated. The area is rototilled then planted with a seed pollinator mix and some hand plantings of larger perennials. The mix is from VT Meadow company and is a regional mix. It may be possible to get a VT only mix.

Bee the Change offers 2 years of oversight (weeding) of the plot after which it would be the towns responsibility. The idea is that it will be self sufficient after 2 years and to partner with a local gardening club or a scout or school group to continue. Do we have a local gardening club? It would require 1 or 2 days of weeding per season. Boy/Girl Scouts?

The goal is more educational than it is functional. Bee the Change offers educational signage for the plot. Over the 7 years they have been in operation they have conducted a survey or the species in the established gardens together with Audobon. Their results are the 1st year there are 35

different species, the 2nd year there are 150 species and on the 3rd year there are 300 different species.

Patrick suggested some sources of long term funding being local businesses funding it and then advertising their funding as “off setting their footprint” or advertising themselves as a “pollinator friendly” business, or participant signs for their businesses.

2. We discussed areas which might be contenders for the pollinator space:
Along the RR bed? – need to do some research to see what the buffers are that the town owns and where might be a good location for the most foot traffic.
Along the driveway to the left on the way to the school? Is this owned by Toby Valitoy?
The Hill Street Property?
Town Hall Parking lot border?
Somewhere near the school itself?
A local gardening club could be Laurel Stanley of the Beautification Society, or is it called the Danville Improvement Society.
3. We need to start talking about finding a brushhogger for Pumpkin Hill
4. Need to assess signage needs for Pumpkin Hill and who will make those signs. Maybe a Senior project? Maxfield English makes wooden painted signs.
5. Officially Welcomed Jake Langmaid back to the group if he is interested as well as Barbara, and Patrick. We need to formally induct these folks.
6. Set the next meeting for Monday April 4th at 7pm.