

Attending: Eric Marczak, Nelson Kent, Amy Lauterbach, Brigitte McAuliffe, Dave Nelson and resident Betty Ketcham.

Eric opened the meeting at 7:37 PM.

Housekeeping

- Eric moved to approve the November and December meeting minutes. Nelson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- Amy will send a link to the members for online access to an annual harassment training program.
- Amy will prepare an annual report.

Education and Outreach

- Dave and Noah Zweifel of the Altamont Enterprise got acquainted and spoke about the wetland.
- Nelson sent drone video footage of the wetland walkway and boardwalk to Noah.
- Ideas for activities for the spring:
 - Eric suggested we contact Glenn Pulito, the Youth Council Coordinator for ideas about programs that could involve children. glennpulito@gmail.com
 - We could plan a boardwalk birdwalk and ribbon cutting for May 4 or 5 or May 18 or 18.
 - Up to 70 species of birds might be passing through on a nice day that time of year.
 - Betty will let Tristan Lowery know that we may be asking for him to present that day.
 - We could also ask Sarah Walsh of Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy to speak about beavers.
- Survey
 - Brigitte plans to have an update at our next meeting.
 - Focus will be on determining residents' values by demographic and location.
 - Possible outreach for increasing online participation via Survey Monkey would be through a link in the Enterprise, the town newsletter, a dedicated mailing and door to door contacts.

Map Library (for Open Space Inventory)

- Betty and Amy will meet to identify maps that are missing from our inventory, and available sources.
 - Betty has access to maps as large .pdf files.
- We need to get pricing for printed maps. (The UPS Store will print an 11" X 17" color map for about \$1.50.)
- We will ask for a town-owned computer to store the map data for use by the Planning Board, the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Building and Zoning Administrator and the CAC.

Critical Environmental Areas (CEAs)

- The map library will help us identify locations that need CEA protection.
 - Karst areas, caves, wetlands, vernal ponds (herp crossings) nesting areas for endangered birds (grasslands, marshes, etc.) are possibilities.
 - We need to identify possible sources of pollution (road salt, asbestos, pesticides, ...), sink holes, sensitive areas, etc.
 - Reducing the use of salt on highways could provide benefits, including:
 - Less expense for salt, fuel, labor for snow removal
 - How much salt does the Town of Knox spread on town roads in a year?
 - What are prescribed amounts of salt for various conditions?
 - Protection of our drinking water supply

- More people moving to Knox in the future will increase traffic as well as demand for water.
- Amy will ask if the Town can stop spreading salt on Street Road where it drains into the wetland.
- Plantings (willows or other suitable plants) could serve as snow fences where drifting is a problem.
 - We could identify target areas and approach the landowners.
 - Placement of the plantings should consider the angle of the sun to allow road ice to melt.
 - We can research sources for free plants for climate change mitigation efforts, etc.
- Grant funding may be available to help with the map update effort.

Wetlands Boardwalk Restoration Project

- Signs and interpretive materials need to be developed.
- Some plastic sections of the boardwalk need to be repaired. Eric will check on the effects of ice and frost heaves.
 - New fasteners may be needed.
- The remaining fasteners need to be installed in the plank walkway.

Other Discussion

- Basswood trees, bur oaks and other native trees could be planted and highlighted in interpretive signs in the town park.
- Non-native specimen trees might be considered for planting as an arboretum.

At 8:40 PM, Amy moved to adjourn, Nelson seconded and all approved.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is planned for 7:30 PM on Tuesday, February 20.