Conservation Commission Minutes 24 April 2024

Present: Paul Shriver, Chair; Linda Morse; Chelsie Brown; Gina Logan; Marlys Eddy (guest)

A quorum being present, the meeting began at 7 pm. No members of the public were in attendance.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Old Business

New and Continuing Business

1. EAB work: Ash Tree Inventory

"On two dates in March and April 2024, students from Professor Marlys Eddy's Plant Pathology class at VSU Randolph (formerly VCT) inventoried the ash trees on Bent Hill Road and Braintree Hill Road. Their work amounted to approximately 40 volunteer hours and covered 7-8 miles of roadway. The group was trained by Joanne Garton from the Urban and Community Forestry Program of the Vermont Forests, Parks, and Recreation Department in how to use a specialized mapping app to mark ash trees in the town right of way. The size and condition of the trees was also assessed. The mapped data will be useful in assessing the amount and location of ash trees that could potentially affect the roadway by falling into it as they are killed by the invasive pest the Emerald Ash Borer. The data collected can be used to determine costs associated with proactive removal of the trees to protect the roadway and for associated grant writing to offset some of the costs." (Provided by Prof. Eddys)

1. Prof. Eddys offered a recap on these activities and the members present offered our sincere thanks to her and her students for this significant help.
2. Further discussion focused on subsequent needs: what to know about wood harvesting/ standing timber/ etc. for offsetting costs, and so on.
3. Chelsie will take the information from Prof. Eddys's students' work to the Select Board. She will also ask Dylan Pratt about road crew priorities and report back to the BCC at our next meeting. Paul will call Joanne Garton and ask her to our next meeting so that we can discuss further work and planning.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm. Next meeting: May 22, 7 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Gina Logan