Braintree Conservation Commission
Minutes, 11 Dec 2024

Present: Paul Shriver, chair; Chelsie Brown, Marlys Eddy, Gina Logan
Absent: Sanders Stephen
Minutes of November were approved.
No members of the public were present.
Old Business: no information received yet from Dark Sky. Marlys will contact the gentleman in Barre with whom she has been speaking about a possible presentation in February or March regarding light pollution and its effects and impacts, including negatively affecting bird migrations.
Discussion: perhaps a public awareness campaign is needed. Possibly people are not realizing how lights (bright floodlights at night, for example) do have negative effects. Perhaps we could plan a night sky viewing party for the town, maybe at the Meetinghouse, in the summer. We will look forward to what Marlys learns from her contact.
Marlys also noted that it would be helpful to have visuals about light impact on the town website.
Other old business: ash trees and EMB. Line item in town budget. What amount/ what rate for now and future expenses associated ash removal? So many miles of town road per year? Discussion: road crew might log ash in town ROW during performance of regular duties? Chelsie and Megan will discuss/ follow up. Invite road crew foreman to future meeting?
New Business:
Paul will write report of BCC activity for Town Report and circulate draft to members.
Discussion: Possible activities/ presentations for next year
VINS
Amphibian crossings/ vernal pools
Bears (managing potential threats to bears and by bears) and Opossums (new neighbors, but apparently here to stay)
Next a meeting: January 22, 2025, at 6 PM, Town Offices

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Gina Logan