

(draft) minutes of May 15, 2019

**Present:** Hank Butler (chair), Cathie Wheeler, Kevin Mack, Elise Lawson, Ric Prescott, Erin McKinnon, Joan Harlowe

**Absent:** Sue Leskin, Chris Manges

**Minutes** of the April meeting were approved.

**Greenup Day** (May 5) went well. Volunteers from Burke Cares and others covered many roads.

**Tree Planting** There were many helping hands — about 150 or more, including students from the East Burke School, Newark School, Riverside, Burke Town School, and Lyndon Institute. A total of 520 trees and shrubs were planted. The funds were from Trout Unlimited. The Caledonian Record wrote about it, and the North Star will include this in a future issue.

**Pete's Pond** The owners have not responded to efforts to contact them. Foundations, and other funding sources, want to know what the flora and fauna are there, and we were seeking the owners approval for the BCC to survey the pond's plants and wildlife in the near future. Hank will talk with Lussier, the real estate agent to get approval for the inventory. For grant writing, Brandon Mazur, of the East Burke School, offered to help with a letter about how the school would use the pond for education. Hank met with Charlotte Downs and Jerry Welsh to learn more about the origin of the pond. Pete Burrington enjoyed having children use the pond; he stocked it for kids to fish and cleared a place for them to skate in winter.

**Programs:** Ben Copans will speak on June 19 at 6:30. He has designed posters, and we will ask the town to print them. BCC members may pick them up at the town office and post them.

Ric proposed two speakers for future talks: Allaera Diamond, VLT conservation ecologist, and Kiley (?) a herpetologist. Joan suggested Chuck Fergus.

**Nature Trail** Hank confirmed that the posts and numbers are intact. Joan asked Linda to print 100 brochures, and Joan will take them to the box.

**Scholarship.** Cathie will find out who the contact person is.

**Membership:** Hank will stay on as chair through June. We must find a new chair to start in July. Hank will continue on the commission.

**Next meeting::** June 19 public program with Ben Coppans.

