

Aquatic Wildlife Sub Committee

April Meeting 4/24/24 MINUTES

VOLUNTEERS:

Present:

Betty Barsevich	bbarsevich@yahoo.com
Kerri Wilson	dragonfly747@outlook.com
Keha Esposito	kwind159@yahoo.com
Karin Bullock	kbullock65@comcast.net
Mary Shea	mshea47@aol.com

Board Liaison: Jay Cassella (HLA Pres) hlapresident1@gmail.com

ABSENT: Mary Beth Russo russm002@gmail.com

Linda Lamitola LCLamitola@aol.com

(Action items are in bold)

1. Aquatic and wildlife sightings: Osprey, Cooper Hawk, 1 Loon, Black water dog
2. Schedule Garden work day: Weds 5/8 @1pm. Meet at Shore Garden.
3. List of needed supplies: Mulch, additional plants (please save receipts)
4. Garden Layout and ID of plants: It was discussed on creating a schematic of the two gardens that includes plant ID and benefits. Mary Shea has a "program" that would help do this. **She will work with Mary Beth to ID the plantings etc.**
5. Milkweed planting project and distribution of seeds: We will be adding more milkweed seedlings to the gardens. Seed project tabled till Fall.
6. Annual Meeting discussion -our presentation- what to include: The committee will have a table for information about our committee and different relevant interests. Included will be copies of past newsletters, "Dark Skys" project information, Workshop information, Canadian Geese- Safe Deterrent Methods handout, Native vs Non-Native Information. We also hope to have a display showing the layout of the present gardens and their plantings. Keha will put together an annual report to be presented at the annual meeting. **A possible Pollinator Seed give-away at the meeting was discussed. We will also have a sign up sheet re: interest in AWC.**
7. Spring Newsletter on Blue birds: Thanks to Mary Shea for pulling this together.
8. Status of Bluebird House & Bat house workshops: **Mary Beth will contact Tiger to confirm possible dates and what materials will be needed.** Mary Shea will provide the schematics for the bluebird house. Jay has some white cedar wood. **We need schematics and information for the bat house. A flyer on these two workshops is needed to advertise @ Annual Meeting.**
9. Frog protection: Kerri Ann has registered Hidden Lake as a reporting participant to the FROG WATCH USA website.
10. Turtle signage -Report from Zoning Officer: Keha spoke with zoning officer. He saw no issues with turtle sign postings. **Jay will put up the other two signs.**
11. Ideas on additional Summer / Fall Workshop: No additional ideas were discussed except for the Bird & Bat House Building
12. Discussion of 3rd Garden @ East Shore Beach (Shade/Sun Garden): Target date of late summer was set to plant this 3rd garden. The plants needed will be purchased prior to during the summer
13. Keha suggested that we the committee come up with a "byline" that would reflect our mission, and purpose. Something catchy??

14. Possibility of funding projects thru the HLA general fund: Jay Cassella reported to the committee that per discussion between Bob Kiehm and Jay, that the Beautification line item in the budget would now be called Beautification/AWC line item. However the amount allotted in the proposed 2024 budget will be reduced to \$500 due to general budget shortfall of \$4000. As of this meeting, per Jay, there is \$641 left to be used up by June 30. **More discussion and procedural clarification is needed on this.**
15. Upcoming Newsletters: Suggested topic for next newsletter was ****Frogs, Turtles Bats, & Light Pollution. OH MY!!!**

ACTION ITEMS pending:

- ❖ **Mary Beth will research native sedum for container garden.**
- ❖ **Creating a schematic of the two gardens that includes plant ID and benefits**
- ❖ **Mary Beth will contact Tiger to confirm possible dates and what materials will be needed.**
- ❖ **Jay will put up the other two Turtle Crossing Signs.**
- ❖ **Keha will contact town re: mowing causeway milkweed.**
- ❖ **Keha will gather information on light pollution for upcoming newsletters and handout for annual meeting.**
- ❖ **Karin will contact Eversource and will review Haddam website for any added resources on light conservation.**
- ❖ **Complete a proposed budget to present at Membership meeting.**
- ❖ **Creating a flyer for upcoming workshops**
- ❖ **Sign up sheet for members who are interested.**
- ❖ **Catchy "byline"???**

Next meeting date 5/14/24 @6:30pm at Betty's house