

Pollinator Pathways of Lamoille Minutes 7-15-24

MC: Denise Greene, Co-Chair

In attendance were:

Laura and Doug Fried and Brad Gardener via Zoom

Melissa Jordan

Denise Greene

Peter Danforth

Martha Davitt

Melissa Rose

Deb Adams

Apologies if I missed anyone!

RAIN GARDEN REVIEW: After call to order and introductions Peter and Deb reviewed the Rain Garden Tour of the cul-de-sac on Prospect St., Hyde Park. Peter felt that the rain garden project was successful because the neighbors took ownership and invested time to plan, execute and maintain the garden. There was general agreement at the meeting that the tour was helpful and interesting, especially with regards to the display board and hands-on exploration of various native species.

Peter explained that the garden "plumbing" allows the phosphorus load to be collected and transported by Hyde Park town employees to a gravel pit outside of the watershed drainage system.

Peter will talk with the town and neighbors about what can be planted in the garden's current empty portion. This will be discussed at the September PPLC meeting and planning hopefully initiated. Attendees suggested that shorter plants should be planted on the south end and taller plants on the north end of the garden.

COMMUNITY GARDEN REVIEW: Members discussed the recent flooding of the community garden at the Oxbow, including the PPLC native plant repository garden. Work needs to be done to de-silt plantings, and a progress report will be forthcoming at the August meeting. Melissa Jordan noted that volunteers are always needed to maintain PPLC's plot. Members agreed that new planting could be done in the fall for the spring. Deb volunteered.

HYDE PARK PROJECTS: Denise reported that the solarization project at the corner of Eden St. and E. Main St. went well, with grudging acceptance by a cantankerous neighbor. Denise felt that

ongoing education about replacing lawns is critical for public acceptance of solarizing lawns for future plantings of wildflowers.

Denise will host a work day demo in early October, 2024 to involve planting the 10' x 32' shaded plot under the maple tree at the Hyde Park Town Office. Melissa Rose and Melissa Jordan volunteered. Denise will get back to us at the August meeting regarding seeding versus planting.

Hyde Park garden tours x 3 will resume Saturday, August 3 at 10:00 AM. Denise will speak with Selectboard H.P. Denise will put out info. beforehand.

GUEST SPEAKERS: Members agreed in previous meetings to limit speakers to October through April (please correct me if I'm wrong). Denise will invite Leslie Spencer of the Institute for Agroecology at UVM to speak in January or February 2025. Per LinkedIn, her "research focuses on wild pollinator conservation, integrated pest management, climate resilience, and community outreach education on blueberry farms in Vermont."

OXBOW TREE PLANTING PROJECT: Peter needs to work on funding for the "sandpie" (riparian buffer?) and Oxbow tree planting. There are 12-18 conservation tree varieties to plant. Peter explained that the young trees may "go down in the flood but come right back up, and he gave the example of 2 oaks planted by the Oxbow Park Pavillion that are fine post flood. He explained that in agroforestry, the windrows and trees act as buffers; also that by interspersing trees and crops, farmers encourage foraging beneath trees for wildlife. The trees also create shade for crops that need a little shade. Peter will update us at the August meeting.

OTHER PLANTING PROJECTS: Melissa Jordan wondered what other projects PPLC should take on in the coming months. It was agreed that she would contact the Noyes Museum to learn about their garden as a future project.

EMAILED UPDATES: Those in attendance agreed to receiving e-mailed updates on events and pending legislation with clear SUBJECT fields such as "Pollinator Legislation" or "Meeting Agenda", etc.

NEXT MEETING: 8/19/24