

Nature Conservancy of Hat Is. Committee
Zoom Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 23, 2022

Next Zoom Meeting: April 20th, Wednesday, 5 pm

Present were: Laurie G., Dan J, Steve J, Lori C., Charlene D, Barb H. and Kristine B

Welcome by Laurie: We have lost another member, **Kevin** is ‘moving on’ but wishes us the best with our efforts. We need to have a lawyer join us, now that we no longer have **Scott**. **Dan** said he would look into a possibility of **Brian and Mellisa Sullivan**? **Laurie** will get back to her lawyer friend, **Jennifer D**?

February Minutes moved along without comments.

Subcommittee update: **Steve** offered to check in with **Carolyn** after **Char** stated that we are still waiting for a response to an inquiry sent by **Carolyn** to the Whidbey/Camano Land Trust.

Future Presentation to the Board/Community: It was discussed that given inflation, future finances may be strained however the timing would be ideal in the summer as it would coincide with updates by the Long Range Planning Committee. **Dan** wishes to make a timeline. **Barb** will reach out to **Bill Kessler**, main owner of the ‘Duck Pond Assoc’.

Get in the Green: Our first native bare-root tree & shrubs give away on March 12th was successful enough that it’s worth repeating next year, **Laurie** will take the lead. Out of 85 total bare-roots, all but 10 were taken and there was about \$100 given in the donation jar. **Laurie** thanked **Lori** for her fantastic publicity poster. Perhaps next year we could designate an actual location to do some planting on the same day, **Charlene**’s suggestion.

Bee seed packets & Parcel K tract A: We still have seed packets left over and **Lori** has them at present. **Kristine** suggests we offer a Nature garden at the commonly owned Parcel K, tract A, she is working along side with the Parks and Rec committee and it was suggested that between all three groups, including the Volunteer Community Garden, we should have a good effort towards making Parcel K a nature park with trails and signage. This would entail Board approval of course.

Whale Presentation on April 24th: **Laurie** and **Lori** just met on zoom with **Alex** who confirmed he is coming back to educate us about Gray whales and other marine mammals on **Sunday April 24th**, to be held at the Fire Station, ‘new bay’ and zoom will also be offered for those who can’t attend. There was a discussion about collaborating in some form with the Langley museum as it coincides with their weekend ‘Whale’ celebration. **Charlene** plans to also help on the 24th.

Kelp & Eelgrass Sanctuary: A discussion about the DNR newly regulated area SE of Hat Island where there is kelp and eelgrass brought up concerns about future use there such as fishing, crabbing and boating. **Charlene** offered to follow up and get back to the committee about that.

Additional Activities for planning: **Laurie** asked if there are other suggestions for our committee activities in addition to the beach walks that are planned for low tides this summer:

- **Mushroom Walk:** **Barb** will contact the Snohomish County Mycological Society.
- **Lori** is in contact with Bill Vogel about **Eagle nesting** guidelines and will provide more information for a future activity on this topic.
- **Shorebirds and specifically kill deer**, we need more educational information about them. **Laurie** suggests she will include this topic in the next ‘Did you Know’ item to be sent out from the H I office.
- **Bluff management.** (minerals, rocks); a Geologist is needed to present about best practices and **Char** will remind her contact who is a bluff specialist that now is a good time to help us.

Long Range Planning: **Dan** explained that the LRP committee wishes to update rules that would apply to lot owners modifying their properties and that the ninth revision was never approved. They are working on **two phases**:

First is an 'immediate' effort to establish **guidance for lot owners** to clarify how their property usage can affect the island bluffs, shores, drainage areas and overall. **Dan** has asked that each of us committee members elaborate on each of the areas for guidance with examples that are specific to Hat Island. **Char** agreed to help with Critical Areas. **Laurie** will take on Tree Policy. **Lori** will do the Eagle policy and **Kristine** will cover landscaping & plant materials.

Second, is creating a **five-year-plan** with a budget, i.e. trying to follow up with the 2013 Drainage Basin Plan that suggested strategic efforts in each 'division' based on the engineers' analysis of the whole island's basin areas. Enforcement is the delicate issue. **Char** suggested there be educational presentations on the island so that once those guidelines are made public, owners would know what to do. **Kristine** suggests each Division protect its situation, i.e. treatment of trees.

Scribed by CDay/ 4/5/22