

To: Berne Town Board, Berne Planning Board
From: Berne Conservation Board
Cc: Berne
Subject: CB meeting minutes, 20 February 2017
Date: 21 February 2017

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM.

Present: Nancy Engel, Sue Hawkes-Teeter, Karen Schimmer (Town Board liason), Kathy Moore. Guest: Ted Kunker, Switzkill Farm

The majority of the meeting time was spent discussing the upcoming "bio-blitz" or "bio-fest" to be held on June 10 at the Switzkill Farm. Teams of people led by volunteer "experts" will focus on specific biological/natural science groups. The following areas of emphasis are under consideration, with the actual areas to be determined by the experts recruited:

- a) Woody plants (trees and shrubs)
- b) Insects
- c) Mammals
- d) Mosses, Ferns & Liverworts
- e) Reptiles & Amphibians
- f) Interpretation of nocturnal activities, monitored on the night of 9th-10th via trail camera, bat acoustic monitoring, audio acoustic monitoring.
- g) Sedimentary geology of the property
- h) Native American activities.

The bio-blitz will take place from 6 AM to 2 PM (the early start time being necessary for breeding bird census takers). A bonfire and cookout will be held at the shale pit, either the evening before or the evening of the bio-blitz.

Tasks remaining:

- 1) Recruit volunteer leaders/experts (Town residents, High School, Cobleskill, HVCC, U. Albany). Kathy M. will make a Google Sheets document to track progress in recruiting. Many good possible candidates were discussed for these roles.
- 2) Publicize the event with the aim of getting broad age representation (school, Scouts, Facebook, posters).
- 3) Make a plan for compiling the data and making it available to the public, e.g. via kiosks and checklists at the Farm, and on the Town website.

The CB also discussed the proposed Porlier/Altieri lot-line adjustment. Kathy M. will follow up with questions for the PB regarding this action, and if deemed necessary we will conduct a site review prior to the scheduled March 2 hearing before the PB.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM