

LAMOILLE COUNTY POLLINATOR PATHWAYS
COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY, FEBRUARY 26, 2024

PRESENT:

Melissa Jordan
Denise Greene
Peter Danforth
Deborah Adams
Alexis Beatty
Leslie Mahoney
Dan McLaughlin

Our monthly meeting held at the Lamoille County Conservation District conference room was called to order at 5:30 pm

INTRODUCTION:

Melissa Jordan introduced guests and thanked Peter Danforth for hosting our group. New members and guests were encouraged to introduce themselves and describe what interests them and brought them here tonight.

Alexis Beatty recently joined PPLC. She's a force in Morrisville, planting and seeding for pollinator gardens in alleyways and cemeteries around town. She's excited to join the group and share her skills.

Lesley Mahoney of Wolcott is interested in our group and shared her interest and love of hiking in the region to observe native trees, plants, and insects. She is interested in learning more about PPLC projects.

UPDATES:

1. Peter Danforth announced that the LCCD can be a fiscal agent for PPLC, and that Martha Battle has accepted a position as a new Board Member.

Peter is working on an NFSA project that provides grant funds to landowners to upgrade their property with native grasses and wildflowers.

He spoke of future PPLC meadow planting projects at the Oxbow. He will meet with the Morrisville Select Board to clarify a 75' shoreline/river buffer rule at the Park that a Planning and Zoning Commission member disputed.

He is finalizing plans for the LCCD spring plant sale, which offers potted and bare-root native species for purchase.

Peter invited the group to add the rain garden on Prospect Street in Hyde Park to the list of pollinator gardens to visit.

Peter provided a handout on the Lamoille County Conservation Stewardship program, which includes a summary and contact information.

2. Dan McLaughlin announced that Mason Kemmler now holds the position of Steward of the Morrisville Community Garden; Dan will be the Assistant Steward. He invited

us to welcome Mason and will provide Mason's contact information at our next meeting for introductions, questions, or collaborations at the community gardens.

3. Denise Greene is meeting with the Hyde Park Select Board to discuss final plans for installing a pollinator meadow on the corner of Eden Street and Main Street in the Village of Hyde Park. She invites PPLC members to attend the volunteer events and learn how to install a pollinator meadow, from soup to nuts, so to speak.

Denise plans to continue her "Meadow Maintenance" workshops in Hyde Park at the Elsa French Park and the Town Office Meadow. The workshops will cover reseeding, invasive species, plant identification, and fall maintenance. Bring gloves, boots or shoe covers, essential tools, and questions for hands-on learning. The workshops will begin in June. Stay tuned for updates.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Neonicotinoid ban in VT legislature: (Neonics are linked to widespread pollinator die-offs in agricultural fields.)

Follow this link to the outcome of the bill in the Senate.

<https://www.vermontpublic.org/local-news/2024-02-28/bill-to-ban-pesticides-toxic-to-bees-takes-a-key-step-forward-in-the-vermont-house>

Garden tour ideas: Melissa Jordan is putting together the final list for our 2024 garden tours series and will send it to our email list shortly. She recently confirmed a tour in July with Laura Fried at her gardens in Waterbury.

Speakers, March Meeting: Denise Greene has taken on the task of coordinating guest speakers for PPLC meetings in March and April. She awaits confirmation of a meeting space at GMTCC in Hyde Park in one of their large conference rooms for our March 18 meeting with guest speaker Emily May of Xerces Society. The school staff is on winter break, so confirmation of the room will not likely be finalized until March 8.

ADJOURN:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Denise Greene, acting secretary, submitted the summary in Leah Bronner's absence.