

Minutes from the Craftsbury Conservation Commission meeting 4/17/23 - In attendance:
Steve Moffatt (chair), Colin Netzley (secretary), Diane Morgan (treasurer), Elinor Osborn,
Brian Machesney, and Susie Houston (SB liaison)

Guests: Alexandra Dick, Doug Wolcik (CCC candidate), Stark Biddle (CCC candidate)

Absent: Farley Brown, Liz Keglör

Meeting called to order by Steve at 7:04

New agenda items - Add executive session at the end to discuss new member recommendations. Add update to Hazard Mitigation Strategies. Add brief update to Act 171. Add Lakes and Ponds Association question.

Approval of minutes - Diane moved to approve the March meeting minutes, Elinor 2nd, unanimous

Act 171 - Confirmation came that the Planning Commission received \$17,000 grant funds for Town Plan update. Planning Commission will be discussing how to apply those funds, and the Conservation Commission may have access to some to update the Natural Heritage Inventory section.

New Member Discussion pushed to end

“Tools of the Trade” outreach event - Conservation Commission will host the event during the June 19th meeting. The purpose is to educate public (and commissioners) and to answer questions the town may have regarding conservation. Outreach working group will work on advertising. Event will be an hour plus fifteen minutes for questions.

Hazard Mitigation Strategies - Brian reported on the “Invasives” section of the Town Hazard Mitigation Plan. By documenting the town’s hazard mitigation, in cases of emergency, FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) is more apt to supply funds. The Hazard Mitigation Plan for Craftsbury can be found on the Selectboard’s page on the town website. “Invasives” section is located on page 53.

Working Group reports - Elinor presented on ways to update the town’s wildlife inventory. Suggested to use iNaturalist, a mobile app that allows individuals to participate in citizen science by documenting wildlife sightings - plants or animals - and have professionals confirm identification through pictures. Other apps such as “Seek” and “Merlin” were also suggested as useful tools. Elinor will provide an update next meeting.

Lakes and Ponds Association - Diane asked if the Conservation Commission should be included in water quality monitoring. Suggested connecting interested landowners to

government programs and citizen science programs. Necessary to add a waterways working group? Connect with Susan Fry (currently in charge of Little Hosmer monitoring). Check in with Greensboro about score cards and graphs used for Caspian.

New Member Discussion - Stark Biddle and Doug Wolcik introduced themselves to the commission, Susie gave a brief background of Craftsbury's Conservation Commission. Stark officially removed himself from running - he already obtained a seat in another group.

Colin moved to begin executive session at 8:18, Brian 2nd

Executive session adjourned at 8:21

Diane moved to accept applications from Doug Wolcik and Nancy Milholland and to recommend both for Selectboard appointment to the Craftsbury Conservation Commission. Elinor 2nd, unanimous. Steve will communicate with Doug and Nancy.

Brian moved to adjourn at 8:27, Diane 2nd.