

**Minutes from the Craftsbury Conservation Commission meeting 5/15/23** - In attendance:

Nancy Milholland, Farley Brown, Colin Netzley (secretary), Steve Moffatt (chair), Elinor Osborn, Diane Morgan (treasurer), Liz Kegl

Absent: Doug Wolcik, Susie Houston (SB liaison)

Resigned: Brian Machesney

-Meeting called to order by Steve at 7:04

-New agenda items - None

-Approval of minutes - Farley moved to approve the April meeting minutes, Elinor 2nd, unanimous

-iNaturalist/seek update - Elinor reiterated the idea of introducing the use of the iNaturalist and seek apps to the public for the creation of a working plant and animal inventory of Craftsbury. Elinor is creating a document with instructions for use of the iNaturalist, seek, and Merlin apps. Elinor introduced the idea of events where groups of interested people could go on a hike together, utilizing the apps to identify plants and animals as they navigate an area. Nancy suggested introducing the project with the public at the Craftsbury Farmers Market. A link may be added to the town website directing people to iNaturalist. Observations made in the Craftsbury area can be sent to the Town of Craftsbury VT Nature Inventory project on iNaturalist.

-June meeting/"Tools of the Trade" discussion - Speakers are lined up, advertising to start next Monday for three Mondays prior to the event, plus one the weekend before. Flyers to be placed around town. Liz, Farley, and Diane to organize the Town Hall meeting space for the event.

-Town Plan discussion/update - Farley reiterated that grant money was approved. An update from the Planning Commission will be given at the July meeting (not June, for the "Tools of the Trade" event). Natural Heritage Inventory section, including Act 171 work, is due in December of 2023.

-Working Group Reports -

Invasives - Diane is beginning to put out periodic reports of invasive species present in Craftsbury on Front Porch Forum. Colin volunteered to mow the mowing section of the Japanese knotweed demo site at Little Hosmer. Fish & Wildlife will no longer mow that section of the demo site due to budget cuts. A new sign is being designed and inquiries into local printing businesses will begin shortly.

Lakes and Ponds - Diane updated the group on the Little Hosmer Water Quality project. The state will do training twice a month for three months to educate citizen scientists on

monitoring water quality at Little Hosmer. Samples will be picked up and analyzed by the state.

-Next meeting agenda items:

- iNaturalist update

- Town Plan update

- Report of Hardwick Conservation Commission meeting (5/17)

Farley moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15, Colin 2nd