

## CRAFTSBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

August 16, 2021

Called to order at 7:00 p.m., Craftsbury Town Hall

**PRESENT:** Stephen Moffatt, Farley Brown, June Pichel Cook, Brian Machesney, Diane Morgan, Elinor Osborn, Ashley Nunery

**ABSENT:** Heidi Rich, Susie Houston (Selectboard Liaison)

**MINUTES:** Farley moved to approve the minutes of July 19, 2021 meeting. Diane seconded the motion. Amended minutes unanimously approved.

**NEW MEMBER UPDATE:** Select Board intends to broaden the search for the ninth commissioner. Steve will discuss with Susie Houston.

### WORKING GROUP REPORTS

- Educational Outreach: see attached report.
- Invasive and Non-native Species Control: see attached report.
  - Steve did not observe Japanese Knotweed entering the stream leaving Little Hosmer Pond [between Cole Drive and Town Highway 19](#) due to erosion from TH19. Elinor suggested laying down grass-seed-loaded fabric at TH19 roadside to combat erosion. Steve will contact the Town road crew to understand the situation re: grading and erosion.
- Natural Heritage Inventory
  - Everett Marshall, Natural Heritage Information Manager for Natural Heritage Inventory in the Wildlife Division at Vermont Fish & Wildlife, reviewed and found nothing threatened or endangered among the more than 175 species of flora and fauna identified in the June 2019 BioBlitz at the Craftsbury Academy Woodlot. We will post the report to the Town website.

**GRANT PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:** Postponed until the next meeting, owing to Susie's absence.

**STEVE WRIGHT MEMORIAL BENCH DEDICATION:** The dedication ceremony will take place on Saturday, September 11, 2021. Diane and Steve will coordinate to publicize the event, first on August 28 with a reminder on September 9.

**FLOOD PLAIN REGULATIONS UPDATE:** Farley stated that the Planning Commission needs to update the Town's 20-year old regulations. Ashley noted that the State also regulates flood plains. Farley indicated that banks require Town-level regulations to lend to properties in the flood plain.

**NEXT MEETING:** The Commission will meet on September 20, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall. Proposed agenda to include: new member prospects; grant partnership opportunities; working group reports; plantings by Sterling students at Japanese Knotweed demonstration site; clarify Municipal Forest Commission's position re: ash trees.

Brian moved to adjourn at 7:57pm. Farley seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Submitted by Brian Machesney, Secretary

**Craftsbury Conservation Commission  
Educational Outreach Working Group  
Updates - August 16, 2021**

Members: Ashley Nunery, Heidi Rich, June Cook

- We welcome CCC members to share any ideas you might have for topics for public events or other agenda items for the Education Outreach Working Group. Please send ideas to Ashley ( [ashleynunery@gmail.com](mailto:ashleynunery@gmail.com) ).
- We received a suggestion to consider building upon the BioBlitz (which took part at the Woodlot) in terms of adding to the natural heritage database and encouraging further community involvement.
- One of the topics that we may pursue for a focus during the summer of 2022 is chimney swifts. For those interested, there was a related article in the Burlington Free Press on August 9th: “ Chimney swifts population decline fought by Vermont birders ”

## **REPORT: INVASIVE AND NON-NATIVE SPECIES CONTROL WORK GROUP**

**August 16, 2021**

### **Milfoil Prevention in Little Hosmer Pond**

- July: Diane recruited five (5) volunteers to monitor Little Hosmer Pond biweekly
  - Ashley Nunery
  - Chris Rabe
  - Kim Stewart
  - Diane Morgan
  - Susan Frey
- July 24: Diane completed 2-½ hour online aquatic ecology workshop presented by Kim Jensen, Vermont DEC Watershed Management Division
- Diane coordinated with Craftsbury Outdoor Center's Davis Sutherland, who organized a second workshop and paddle re: identifying aquatic plant species.
- August 12: 3-hour workshop, "Identifying Aquatic Plant Species", at Little Hosmer Pond led by Michael Lew-Smith of Arrowood Environmental Consultants. Attended by Little Hosmer Pond monitors and participants from two other lakes. Ashley had already completed this training last summer.
- **As of this date, no Eurasian milfoil has been found in Little Hosmer Pond.**

### **Japanese Knotweed Control**

- August 5: Elinor, Diane and Brian identified a 23-ft x 33-ft plot along TH19 to demonstrate the efficacy of repeated mowing to eliminate JK (½ hour); Elinor and Diane cut and piled knotweed to give the purple flowering raspberry plants more light (½ hour) Elinor trimmed around our previous native plantings (1 hour)
- August 6: Brian used a bow saw to cut JK to ground level in the mowing demo area (2-½ hours)
- August 7: Brian and Elinor moved the cut JK from the mowing demo area to a drying area (2 hours)
- August: Elinor made 3 more short trips to: plant more purple flowering raspberry and water previous planting
- August: Diane and Elinor completed revising the JK brochure
- Drying racks demonstrated rapid drying of stalks. Uncovered root balls sprouted due to wet weather. If kept covered in wet conditions they will dry rapidly.