

APPROVED – CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

February 26, 2018

Town Hall, 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: John Brodhead, Farley Brown, June Cook, Carol Maroni, Diane Morgan, Elinor Osborn, Steve Wright

ABSENT: Joe Houston, Susie Houston (Sel. Bd. Liaison), Emily Thompson

Treasurer Diane Morgan called the meeting to order.

MINUTES: January 29, 2018 minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Clarification by the Town Clerk shows that the amount in the Conservation Commission account is \$383. The amount in the Craftsbury Conservation Fund remains at \$975.85.

LITTLE HOSMER UPDATE: Diane reported on her e-mail discussion with Josh Mulholland of DEC regarding a sign-in station for boaters using the access. He will contact Fish&Wildlife and let us know the process for attaining signage permission. Emily had e-mailed the suggestion to enlist the Boy Scouts to construct a kiosk for this purpose, however, it is premature for this as the State will have requirements. We will wait to hear back from DEC or F&W.

TOWN MEETING: Farley will bring folding table and Craftsbury map indicating areas of natural constraints, sensitive areas for wild life, and interest. Diane will bring tablecloth and pictures of invasive plant species. Carol will print mission statement (including statement re status as tax deduction), 2017 information sheet on Craftsbury Conservation Fund, and Land Task Force Survey results (list of resources people would like to protect). Power point presentation of historical images in the area at turn of century was discussed. It was decided not to bring a computer with continuous showing of pictures for town meeting at this time.

KNOTWEED UPDATE: Elinor reported that Stuart LaPoint has an herbicide applicator license but has never done stem injection of herbicides to eradicate knotweed. It was indefinite about how long the process would take and the cost. He will look at the site. Abutters Linda Ramsdell and Carolyn Ryan are supportive of project with use of chemicals. State will write up landowner permission forms for abutters to sign as area is not surveyed. Farley will talk to Beryl Sweatt, abutter, to ensure the understanding that the project will not be on her property.

Elinor reported she attended the select board meeting to apprise them of the Knotweed Eradication Demonstration Project. Select Board was supportive and felt it was important to keep public informed as early and as much as possible. This can

be done through signage, FPF, press, and invitation for public to visit the site on a particular day as an Open House event.

John reported on his conversation with Jon Kart from the DEC (?) who was involved in the Richmond knotweed eradication project. The project encompassed 200 acres. Kart is willing to speak to the commission. Elizabeth Spinney was a recommended resource. The Richmond project covered 2 years and cutting 3 times in the summer. Weed whackers were used for the cutting. Some chemical injection was utilized using Rodeo. The area was wetlands and treated with Rodeo approved for use in wetlands. Maintenance of area was described "as being like washing dishes" at an easy maintenance level. Purpose of demonstration project is to allow people to see what can be expected with a certain amount of work and at what cost. The plant doesn't reseed but propagates from rhizomes and nodules. Wrapping cut plants may be counter productive. If cutting, the work is done once a month during the Spring and Summer; if using herbicide, work is done in September, when plant begins to blossom and seed.

Consensus was the project needs a time line and cost analysis.

June reported that Doug Johnson of RIIPP (Regional Inlet Invasive Plants Program) in the Adirondacks, New York, had been contacted. She will e-mail synopsis of the responses to questions sent to him.

THOMPSON FARM DINNER: Diane reported Thompson family is planning a farm dinner in August as a fundraiser for the Craftsbury Conservation Fund. A suggested speaker is Kiley Briggs from the Orianne Society. The dinner would be outside similar to event held last year.

Discussion centered on commission as a public body heeding appropriate protocols to distinguish public/private activities and not utilize taxpayer funds in private events. The commission appreciates the Thompson family's willingness to do this fundraiser and is happy to accept a donation to the Craftsbury Conservation Fund.

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE DISPLAY: Tabled for future discussion.

OTHER BUSINESS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

The Conservation Commission meets the 4th Monday monthly in the Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 26, 2018.

Meeting Adjourned 8:30 p.m.