

DRAFT CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

April 27, 2020

ZOOM Meeting

PRESENT: Stephen Moffatt, Diane Morgan, Farley Brown, June Cook, John Brodhead, Carol Maroni, Elinor Osborn, Heidi Rich, Susie Houston

GUESTS: Connor Quinn, Melanie Lohrer

MINUTES: Minutes of 2/24/20 approved. Stephen explained meeting was not properly warned and commission would not be taking action. ZOOM meeting information should be posted publicly prior to meeting.

TREASURER REPORT: Diane reported the Craftsbury Conservation Fund had a balance of \$2,100.45 as of April 27, 2020, the same as reported in the Town Report plus a few cents interest. Moneys appropriated from the Good Neighbor Fund will be added to the fund as voted at Town Meeting. Town Treasurer doesn't transfer appropriations until taxes come in. The fund was appropriated \$7,000 at the annual meeting.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Commission to be reorganized at next meeting. No action.

POST TOWN MEETING: Town meeting session was reviewed with general agreement it went well. Susie was thanked for negotiating a pre-town meeting with all parties seeking funds from Good Neighbor Fund and reducing their requests proportionately. Diane was thanked for getting article requesting appropriation on the warning. Raising funds via local taxes is a future consideration as funds from the Good Neighbor Fund disappear in two years. Discussions could begin by meeting with the Planning Commission and Select Board to pursue the idea. Similar fundraising through local taxes has been used in other towns.

NEW MEMBER IDEAS: Ashley Nunery's name was put forth.

KNOTWEED PLANTINGS: Elinor reported on ordering of plants from Intervale to cover Japanese Knotweed Demonstration plot. Plants ordered from Intervale: 6 arrowwood bushes (?); 8 red osier; 8 silky dogwood shrub; 6 willow; 4 winter berry. Plants had been ordered through USDA but that program was canceled. Select board approved expenditure of \$200 from general committee funds for the plantings.

Stephen will pick up the plants and volunteered to do the planting with his in-house crew. Questions of planting in the existing plastic, plants surviving, maintenance, and future aesthetics were raised.

Elinor reported Casella Waste would charge \$150/per load, 3 tons, for knotweed disposal. The State has no money for knotweed disposal. The select board would have to approve an expenditure; 3 tons per load is a lot of knotweed.

PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD LETTER: Stephen will be the contact with the Public Service Board to replace Steve Wright, who was listed as the PBS contact. The PBS letter, written in February by Carol, was discussed. The letter was drafted as a response to Green Mountain Power's status report on installing a radar detection system on the Lowell Mountains. Under the PBS Certificate of Public Good, a radar detection system, or alternative, was to be installed to shutter the continuously blinking red lights on the towers. Objections raised in February to the draft letter were unclear; the letter was not sent at that time. Waiting to send a letter until the May status report from GMP was discussed. Consensus was that Stephen would sign the February letter and send it prior to the May status report.

CHIMNEY SWIFT PRESENTATION: The Chimney Swift presentation with Margaret Fowle (sp) will be rescheduled. Although she was willing to do a webinar, the consensus was it would be better to wait until she can be present in person.

OTHER BUSINESS: Stephen reported on his conversation with Jared Nunery on doing an ash tree survey. Having as much public buy-in during the process was emphasized and proceeding with the survey is on hold until more people are involved.

ATV signage has been installed in Collinsville and Hatch Brook Road advising of the law relating to travel through bodies of water. Some boulders have moved down river during high water that reduce accessibility to the waterway at the Collinsville Road/Eden river access.

Memorializing Steve Wright for his dedication, work, and service that he has given to the town in multiple ways was discussed. Installing an Aldo Leopold bench and plaque is one consideration.

The Commission will meet May 25 at 7:00 p.m. It has not been decided if the meeting will be face-to-face in the Town Hall or will be held via ZOOM.

Submitted by June Pichel Cook, Secretary