

APPROVED CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
September 25, 2017

PRESENT: Joe Houston, Susie Houston, Carol Maroni, Diane Morgan, Elinor Osborn, June Cook

ABSENT: Emily Diaz, John Brodhead, Farley Brown, Steve Wright

MINUTES: Minutes of 7/31/2017 not approved until clarified.

CONSERVATION FUND DINNER: Discussion centered on having Bee Pollinator return for broader audience and/or having a panel discussion on topic. With panel discussion, there are more options of speakers; however, often too much information to synthesize and process all that is presented. Diane felt the topic includes more than energy, but also agriculture. Potential of hooking up with Energy Committee and presenting program in the Spring. Joe felt collaboration with another committee was positive.

Drawbacks of outdoor presentation were sound and inability of people to hear questions asked. Over \$500 raised at On-the-Farm Thompson Family fundraiser. Voted to send thank-you note to the Thompson family for the fundraiser, and Joe authorized to do so. Diane reported she had checked with Town Clerk, but Craftsbury Conservation Fund had not yet been established.

In the future, if Commission is involved, need to plan more diligently and let people know what is going to take place. Part of problem were the exchanges of e-mails, and not all members being apprised of what was taking place.

Name of the fund is Craftsbury Conservation Fund. A copy of mission and guidelines must be completed and placed with Town Clerk for reference and information for public.

MEMBERSHIP ATTENDANCE: Carol raised concern that full membership should be engaged and work tasks be shared. Appointments are made through the select board by either recommendation of commission or board seeks candidates through other recommendations. Feeling expressed too many e-mail exchanges may be overwhelming for members. If members aren't going to be present at a meeting, best practice is letting Chair know. Unfair for members to be present and lacking a quorum. Better to postpone meeting if a quorum won't be present. The commission meets the fourth Monday of each month in the Town Hall at 7:00 p.m.

ATV'S: Carol outlined her investigations with Russell Shopland, game warden in this area, contacts made with Derby State Police Barracks, and VTrans. Reached Amy Gamble at VTrans. Although Gamble is sign guru for VTrans, questions of

placements in rights of way was not her forté. If within town ROW, doesn't require state approval for sign placement/wording. Town can place the sign.

If in landowner's ROW, than it is issue with permission from landowner. Property owners can give permission. State owns water in lakes and rivers; landowners own up to low water mark.

If in state ROW, need to have state approval. No specific language. Gamble is Traffic Operations Engineer and willing to assist in language review. State doesn't have specific language relating to ATV's. Due to increased popularity of ATV riding, this may become more of a future concern relative to signage and wording. Up to select board as to where signs will be posted. Commission can make recommendations. Access on Hatchbrook Road is easy for ATV's to access river crossing, not as much on Eden Road.

Although contacting Agency of Natural Resources may be another avenue, Joe reported ANR has no more sway over ATV's in water than others. Question of who monitors ATV's in the water – state police or Fish & Wildlife? Signage indicating up to \$300 fine for illegal action may be deterrent.

Joe or Susie will talk to select board to ensure it is in agreement about placing signage relative to illegality of ATV's crossing streams or rivers. Joe will try to attend select board meeting to answer questions.

Two questions for select board: (1) Are you in favor of placing signage? (2) Where is it most appropriate to place such signage?

KNOTWEED/INVASIVE SPECIES: Elinor raised possibility of creating a demonstration project area on state lands at Little Hosmer for showcasing knotweed control measures and efficacy. This was done in Windham. If not committed to controlling knotweed on a regular basis, cutting once – as commission project had been implemented before – isn't enough to make an impact.

Rodeo is used around water. Joe reported no one may dispense pesticides on another person's property without being licensed.

Although commission is in favor of pursuing a demonstration project; however, where, who, and how it should be implemented was not determined. Susie suggested Carolyn Ryan property; Elinor suggested state's property at Little Hosmer; June suggested school property. Diane felt this was a huge, long-term commitment for commission members alone to undertake and other groups be involved.

Moved and voted that Elinor will contact officials in Windham to see what process they followed. Diane has information from Nature Conservancy on what other towns did.

OTHER BUSINESS: Diane reported commission's web page is up to date.

Diane reported a discussion with Amelia Fritz, a member of the VT Lakes Association, about Little Hosmer and milfoil. Little Hosmer doesn't have signs of milfoil, however, it is a prime candidate because of its shallowness and its connection to Big Hosmer. Grants are available to possibly pay for a "greeter." The greeter would help check over watercraft for signs of milfoil before being launched. Canoes, kayaks, etc. can carry milfoil fragments as do motorboats. This will be brought up at the next meeting.

The Commission will meet on Monday, October 23, 2017, at the Town Hall.

Submitted by June Pichel Cook, Secretary