

## APPROVED CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

May 27, 2019

Craftsbury Town Hall

**PRESENT:** Stephen Moffatt, Carol Maroni, Diane Morgan, Susie Houston, Elinor Osborn, Farley Brown, June Cook, Steve Wright

**ABSENT:** John Brodhead

**MINUTES:** April 22, 2019 minutes approved as presented.

**NEW MEMBER APPOINTMENT:** The commission voted unanimously to recommend to the Select Board that Heidi Rich be appointed to the Craftsbury Conservation Commission.

**COMMISSION REPORTS:** Diane reported the balance in the Craftsbury Conservation Fund is \$1,711.01. The Craftsbury Conservation Fund is designed to raise funds for conservation projects; it is not a fund for operation expenses. The mission statement and fund history is on the town website. Expenditures from all town committees for operation expenses are approved by the Select Board and made from the General Fund. Susie explained the board has an account for committees to expend reasonable amounts for items, such as, refreshments, speakers, etc.

Craftsbury Conservation Fund: Diane agreed to chair a subcommittee which includes Susie and Carol. The sub-committee will establish the procedures, design an application, investigate other towns' processes and investigate fundraising activities.

Farley reported the AVCC (Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions) is a valuable resource which anyone can join the listserv. She will send the link to everyone.

Knotweed Eradication Demonstration Project: Elinor explained the small knotweed stems which were not injected in September last year have sprouted in the demonstration area. The stems will be cut and smothered with black plastic. The cost of 100 x 10, heavy plastic was estimated at \$60/roll. She will check prices and was authorized to spend \$120 for 2 rolls.

A volunteer work day will be held June 15, beginning at 9:00 a.m. to complete Phase II of the project. Susie will put notice on Front Porch Forum; June will write press release.

Gardening for Wildlife: Carol reported the sub-committee met 3 times and response has been very positive. The sub-committee has reached out to the Energy Committee and Amelia has joined the group. She met with Ceildih from WonderArts

about the Community Greenspace. The Greenspace has all the components to be certified as a National Wildlife Federation Certified Wildlife Habitat. Carol Fairbanks from WonderArts and sub-committee toured the Greenspace; a joint demonstration and education project has been planned. The Greenspace has multiple sites of interest and variety – meadow, hedgerow, cedar swamp. Planting a pollinator garden is being planned along with plantings on the hedgerow. The site does have knotweed and bishops weed; both areas will be identified with signs. WonderArts has funds available for plantings and signage.

The sub-committee also toured the town-owned properties and looked at public road triangles. Carol noted the triangles had been identified by the Land Taskforce Committee Survey as important to protect. The potential of planting cover which doesn't have to be mowed was discussed. Energy Committee has done some plantings of flowers.

Susie suggested the front of the town hall could be a site to do plantings.

Academy Woodlot: Susie updated the commission on the Academy Woodlot committee, which is composed of school and community members. Jared Nunnery will be doing a forest management plan. A public meeting was held with 35 people attending to give input as to what they would like to see. Certifying the woodlot as a living outdoor classroom is being planned. Susie also reported on the Coburn Hill woodlot and potential of wildlife planting in that area. Farley noted EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program), a federal program does cost sharing projects.

**ATV Signage:** The signage at the river crossing is supposed to be in place. Susie will follow up with board as to when it will be installed.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Susie reported on the Bio-Blitz scheduled for Saturday, June 8. The Bio-Blitz, organized by Susie and Elinor, will have eleven naturalists present to work with teams of volunteers to identify different components (flora, fauna, insects, birds) of the Academy Woodlot.

Susie met with the newly formed Hardwick Conservation Commission and reported the activity of the Craftsbury Conservation Commission has been noted very positively.

Stephen expressed the need to have a goal and holding a future meeting to discuss that topic should be considered. The commission surveyed the community in the past. The surveys will be revisited to see if there are commonalities on topics.

Diane reminded members that it he/she should notify the chair if unable to attend a meeting.

The next meeting has been scheduled for June 24, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Craftsbury town Hall.

Submitted by June Pichel Cook, Secretary

**ADDENDUM NOTE:** Based on a subsequent exchange via e-mail, the June 24 meeting has been rescheduled to July 1. The regular July meeting will be held July 29. All meetings are open to the public. Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. in the Craftsbury town Hall.