

Thetford Conservation Commission Minutes

April 12, 2017

Present: Ann Lavanway, Sue Fritz, Bob Pulaski, Libby Chapin, Jim McCracken, Sue Tallman,
Jeff Smith, Steve Lehman

Absent:

Guest: Bill Bridge -

- 1 The meeting minutes from March 22, 2017 were approved.
- 2 Bob's overview of budgets: \$750 in Operating account
TCC-Trust Fund \$27,263 (for Acquisition not maintenance)
\$2500 will be transferred from Town General Fund to Trust Sept or Oct 2017
History of spending: 2016 - \$0, 2015 - \$0
2014 - 5k to Ely Mt farm (Denison)
2013 - \$7,500 Taylor Tract
2010 - \$5k Zebedee Tract
- 3 Bill Bridge - Child's Pond
Thetford Fire Dept. has water use easement and there is turnout near the dry hydrant which is used to access the pond for recreation and plowed by the town. The deteriorated current sign needs to be replaced with UVLT as manager not TCC. Ann will contact Jason at UVLT to talk about signage and how to determine appropriate use of property.
- 4 Hodge farm conservation project. All were in agreement to support with donation pending a site visit with a representative from UVLT. Meaghan Chapman will be asked.
- 5 Jeff reported on Town Forest timber harvest. Receipts for this year \$34k. Two-year total is \$42k. 20 acres will be logged next winter and should bring total revenue to amount Ehrhard estimated. More effort to inform neighbors of project was recommended. Jeff said the 3 Ponds dam should be on the Vermont state registry. The TCC Board is not in favor of selling town land but work with Chris Lang to adjust property lines near the dam. The Select Board has not taken action to resolve. Li Shen will be a voice for the TCC to comply.
- 6 Libby and Jim - Invasive Plants - Garlic Mustard picking parties are set up and will be advertised With posters and list serve postings for volunteers. Also asking Select Board for mowing timeline to cut early before plants go to seed. Lebanon Landfill will be asked to grant a waiver again this year to accept bags of plants. \$75 is cost to transport from recycling to Lebanon. 8 locations for picking parties were agreed upon. 10 students from 7th grade will be paid for 2 hours at Gary Road site 5/10/17. Neighbors will be asked for matching donation of \$200 to match TCC offer. It was agreed to spend up to \$200 from Donation fund. Balance of funding (\$500 total allocated) could be applied to mowing. It was suggested to map the locations of 3 invasive plants: Poison parsnip, Chervil and Garlic Mustard for future reference.
- 7 Jeff in contact with Chad Whitcomb, Thetford Fire Chief, are planning the prescribed burning of Thatch on PMNA. There is a water supply nearby and it will be a training exercise. Burning 5 to 10 acre areas would be done over a 3-year period. The best bird benefit would be clearing close to 10 acres at a time.
- 8 Setting up trail on PMNA postponed until the fall.
- 9 Connie will work with Tim Taylor about mowing plan for trail to the river. Width and timing are important to protecting turtle habitat.

Other Business:

- 1 Priorities concerning boundaries and invasive treatments needed for work quotes from Ehrhard Frost. 1.) Hughes Forest – phragmites 2.) Taylor Floodplain – knotwood Jeff is contact person. Commission needs to emphasize needs to use funds available.
- 2 Concerns from Li Shen:
 1. Tree removal at airport
 2. Feral cat situation at the Union Village Dam.
 3. Volunteer to be interviewed about UV Dam area history
- 3 All were in agreement to create a partnership with the Army Corp officials to promote use of UV Dam area.
Starting with an invitation to the Ranger to a board meeting.

Our next meeting is Wednesday May 10th – 7pm

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Tallman