

DRAFT

Thetford Conservation Commission Minutes
Special Meeting Called by Chairs – June 28, 2017

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

Ann and Sue Fritz, co-chairmen, asked for this meeting because clarification is needed in how town land maintenance monies are appropriated by the Select Board and how this information will impact the conservation goals of the TCC.

The minutes of June 14, 2017 were approved.

It was resolved to study all income and outgo of funding for town lands maintenance. Questions to be clarified with the Select Board include: What is the history of the Town Lands Capital Fund and Town Land Maintenance line item in the Select Board budget? Will the Town continue to fund the Town Lands Maintenance budget item yearly regardless of logging revenues from the town-owned lands?

Jeff will meet with Ehrhard Frost to set a timeline to accomplish the current TCC town lands maintenance priorities for this year. These are 1: mark boundaries on Taylor and Hughes Tracks 2: Invasive removal (phragmites and honeysuckle) on the Hughes Track. Needed from Ehrhard is a quote for his services and a definite finish time for these projects. Jeff will also be in contact with Ellis Paige about PMNA mowing schedules.

A third priority is having the Select Board decide on any action pertaining to the discussions with Three Ponds owner, Chris Lang. The TCC board does not approve of selling any portion of the Town Forest.

Updated communication with the Select Board would include TCC input on logging on town-owned land that the TCC manages, as well as mowing and invasive plant removal on these properties. With regards to logging, the Commission will recommend waiting at least 20 years for another harvest. UVLT holds conservation easements on Hughes, PMNA and the Taylor Floodplain Forest. The Commission will ask for input from UVLT regarding the management of these properties.

A review of the 2008 Land Management Plan will be scheduled to determine if new goals are necessary. Revisiting every 10 – 15 years is the usual time to do this. It was suggested that UVLT be invited to a TCC meeting for this discussion.

Bills relating to town lands maintenance will be forwarded from the Town Treasurer, Jill Graff for review. Following review by TCC, they will be submitted to the Select Board for payment. Presently, the TCC does not see invoices for work done on town lands.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Tallman