

Minutes of the Thetford Conservation Commission – January 11, 2017 - draft

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

1. The minutes of the previous meeting of December 14, 2016 were approved.
2. Li gave a review of the request by the gliding club to cut trees on PMNA to improve runway clearance. She contacted the club for an update, but has not yet received a response.
3. Jim and Libby talked about their efforts to get information about showing the film “The Messenger.” Libby suggestion that “Before the Flood” may be another option.
4. Li reported that UVLT will be following up on the Taylor Flood Plain Preserve boundary violation.
5. Li did contact the Select Board to reiterate the Commission’s position on the possible sale of land on the Town Forest.
6. Sue Tallman will be monitoring the Select Board minutes for the Commission.
7. Li reported that the snow mobile trail may be re-routed so that the trail goes from Whippoorwill Rd. over to Poor Farm Rd. over private property rather than through Hughes Forest.
8. The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board is considering extending the trapping season for otter and bobcat. The Commission discussed the proposal.
9. Libby will review the DRB postings.
10. Connie Snyder and Ann will organize the Taylor Flood Plain Forest bird walk for this spring.
11. Jim talked about the best way to work with the town to have the forestry fees taken out of the stumpage revenue. Jeff will work with Li to work on a letter to send to the town.
12. Jeff talked with Ehrhard about when the harvest will start on the Town Forest this year. Ehrhard offered to give a tour to the Commission. Wade Reed is the logger. He will use a mechanized harvesting method. Jeff will let Ehrhard know that we are interested in a tour and ask Ehrhard to let us know when the timing is right.
13. Town meeting is March 4th. Libby has some photographs from the 2016 events. Li will look for other photos. Libby will put together a poster of photos with captions.
14. Libby would like the Commission to layout a timetable for the invasive plant initiative for this year at our next meeting.
15. The education subcommittee will meet next week. Libby asked Commission members for ideas for this year’s education theme.
16. Li gave an overview of the crown jewel walks. Jeff would like to expand our vision of a crown jewel and would like to have a walk at the Union Village Dam. He also suggested we look at some of the large forest blocks and the properties within those blocks.
17. Jim asked if the Commission would like to agree to do a crown jewel walk this year and the group agreed to do one this year.

Meeting adjourned at 8:38PM.

Reminder that Commission members should let Li know ahead of time if they cannot attend the next Conservation Commission meeting, so that she may plan accordingly.

Our next meeting is February 8, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Lavanway