

DRAFT

Thetford Conservation Commission Minutes

December 12, 2018

7:00PM

Present: Ann Lavanway, Connie Snyder, Jim McCracken, Bob Pulaski, Sue Tallman, Steve Lehman, and Sue Fritz

Absent: Jeff Smith

Guest: Richard Krzal, Select Board liaison to the Commission

The Minutes of November 14, 2018 were amended and approved.

Jim gave an education events update. Movies are being reviewed for the Film Festival on Sunday, March 4, 2019. The \$200 cost will be shared with the West Fairlee CC. Brainy Birds is a live-animal event planned for April 2019, presented by the Southern Vermont Natural History Museum. Green Up Day is on May 4, 2019. An animal tracking event is a consideration for next winter.

Sue Fritz and Steve Lehman reported on the December 7, 2018 annual monitoring of the Taylor Floodplain Preserve with Katelyn Currie-Haggard from UVLT. They observed various animal tracks, many invasive plants (especially knotweed), and increased river bank erosion. Katelyn will send a report of the visit to the Select Board. Ann has spoken with Kiley Briggs about targeted invasive control of the knotweed to protect Wood Turtle habitat on the Taylor Floodplain Forest. The Commission will be in touch with Kiley in 2019.

A budget request letter for the Commission's annual operating budget, the Conservation Trust Fund, and town lands maintenance will be prepared for the Select Board. Sue Fritz made a motion (seconded by Connie) to ask the Select Board for \$850 for the TCC operating budget. The motion passed. Bob made a motion (seconded by Jim) to request the transfer of \$2500 to the Conservation Trust Fund. The motion passed. Also included in the letter will be a town land maintenance proposal from Ehrhard Frost. Steve will request a date with the Select Board to discuss the budget requests.

Agenda Items for the January 2019 meeting were discussed. A vote for a chairman for the TCC is required. We also will discuss plans for an information table at the Town Meeting in March. Ann suggested inviting a representative of the Fish and Game Club to a CC meeting early in 2019 to discuss common ground between the two groups. The meeting also could include a presentation by Jesse Mohr.

Several Thetford residents have indicated an interest in serving on the TCC.

Everyone had high praise and thanks for Ann's 12 years of service on the Commission Board.

The Meeting adjourned at 8:30.

The next meeting is January 9, 2019 at 7:00PM at the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Tallman