

Thetford Conservation Commission Minutes
December 13, 2017

Present: Sue Fritz, Steve Lehman, Sue Tallman, Jim McCracken, Jeff Smith and Bob Pulaski

Absent: Ann Lavanway and Libby Chapin

The Minutes of November 15, 2017 were approved.

An update on proposed town lands maintenance budget items for 2018 was discussed. Jeff presented an estimate from Ehrhard Frost of \$300-\$650 for monitoring and scheduling the treatment of invasives on Town properties. Ehrhard's total proposal will be close to \$2300 without the boundary work at the Taylor Floodplain Forest. Ehrhard will email his revised proposal to Jeff by Monday, December 18, 2017. An estimate was received from the Otterman Surveying and Septic Design firm for up to \$3500 to determine Taylor Floodplain Forest boundaries. Ellis Paige gave an estimate of \$500 for restoring the drainage crossing at PMNA. The estimated total for the Land Maintenance budget request from the TCC to the Select Board is \$6500.

Jeff reported that the logging project on the Town Forest is on schedule to be completed this winter. Logging revenues will be received in 2018.

Jim gave an update on the plans for winter educational programs. The cost to join the Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Society is \$200. TCC will pay \$100 and West Fairlee Conservation Commission will pay \$100. Once the choice of films has been determined, a date for showing the films on a Sunday in late January or early February 2018 will be announced. If the first program is successful, a second film showing will be planned.

The UVLT closing for the New Hope Farm conservation sale is Friday, December 15, 2017 at the Law Office of Daniel Grossman in Norwich, VT.

Recruiting a new member for TCC continues. Sue Fritz will put an advertisement on the Thetford List serve. At the Town Meeting in March 2018, there will be sign up sheet at the TCC table.

Sue Fritz attended the Thetford Energy Sub Committee. The members are working on an enhanced energy proposal for Thetford. A map of possible sites for solar installations was one of the topics discussed. Sue Fritz suggested this would be a good opportunity for the TCC to contribute to the discussion of determining appropriate sites for developing solar arrays. The Town Plan Committee would need to include guidelines for this new land use. Anyone interested is welcomed to attend the Sub Committee meetings on Tuesdays at the Town Hall from 4:30 to 6:00pm.

Discussion of the Natural Resources section of the Town Plan draft was short as the Select Board met in November to review the NR chapter and there was no information of the changes made available to the public. It was agreed by the TCC members that at least two educational programs could be developed from the present Natural Resource Chapter: 1) the issue of

buffers necessary near water sources to prevent runoff pollution and 2) identification of forest blocks that need flora and fauna conservation protection.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Tallman