

Draft

Thetford Conservation Commission Minutes

February 14, 2018

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

Guest: Megan Chapman from UVLT

The Minutes of January 10, 2018 were approved with the replacement of one sentence for clarification in the Enhanced Energy Sub-Committee report.

Megan Chapman of the Upper Valley Land Trust reported on the successful conservation of The New Hope Farm. Jim asked about having a celebration of the project in Thetford and giving local landowners to learn about land conservation as a part of that celebration. Megan will ask UVLT about organizing a celebration and information session. Megan said that while they do not have any Thetford conservation projects in the works, they are always interested in learning about possible opportunities. She will mail copies of the latest UVLT newsletter to the TCC to be handed out at Town Meeting, March 3, 2018.

Sue Fritz and Libby reported that they talked with Ron Rhodes about recommendations for the Ompompanoosuc River including what was involved in the removal of dams.

Jeff reported that the town forest harvesting has been completed. An estimate of revenue will be available in 2-3 weeks when receipts are tallied. The cleanup will start when snow is gone to prevent further soil damage. Jeff will monitor this final process. Loggers removed bullet riddled trees and moved them into the woods for the Fish and Game Club at no cost. The Town use of the landing for wood and other debris from road work is a concern. The TCC would like to see a better plan for this activity. A visit to the Fish and Game Club site was recommended by TCC members with a follow up report to the Select Board.

Jeff submitted the updated forestry contract for work to be done in 2018 with Ehrhard Frost's signature. After the Town budget is passed on March 3, 2018, the contract will be submitted to the Select Board for their signature.

Libby and Jim gave an update on education events. They reported full-house attendance at the Film Festival on February 11, 2018. The choice of films was well received by an audience of children and adults. The consensus was that this will be an annual event.

May 12, 2018 is the date for the birding walk on Taylor Flood Plain Forest. Connie Snyder contacted Dr. George Clark and Janet and Tim Taylor to set the date. She also contacted the Post Mills airport to be sure there would be no overhead activity on this date.

Libby will gather materials for the table at Town Meeting, March 3, 2018. Ann, Sue Fritz, Jim and Steve volunteered to meet and greet with Libby.

The Commission will hold a special meeting on February 28, 2018 to discuss this year's priorities.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Tallman