

DRAFT
Thetford Conservation Commission Minutes

April 25, 2018

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

Guests: Jesse Mohr, Connie Snyder and Li Shen

Jesse Mohr, Native Geographic Ecologist and Forester, explained his process of conducting a natural resources inventory for municipalities. There are two Phases to his work. Phase 1 involves identifying town priorities and compiling data that from existing sources. Phase 2 involves site visits in areas needing further study and areas that are likely to support important natural resources. The approximate cost for Phase 1 is \$7000 to \$8000. The cost for the Phase 2 is determined by the scope of the project as determined by the town. Phase 2 brings together the data to create a suite of maps, photos, GIS data, and a landowner database. It can also include a public presentation and a narrative that is important for education. The time-frame for a town-wide natural resource inventory is at least one year which would cover the four seasons. Applying for grants and other funding takes about one year to accomplish.

Several ways to secure funding were discussed. This topic will be on the agenda for the next TCC meeting.

The minutes of March 28 were approved as amended.

Connie reported on the May 12th Taylor Floodplain Forest walk. It will start at 7:00AM. Planks will be used over wet areas on the trail if necessary. A refreshment sign-up sheet was passed. Connie brought a copy of the poster that she will post to promote the walk.

Libby and Jim reported on Green Up Day preparations for May 5th. Green trash bags will be distributed. Collected trash drop-off is will be at the Thetford town garage on Saturday, May 5th from 8AM – 2 PM. Statistics of the total number of bags used and pounds of trash collected will be recorded and sent to the state. The TES art teacher and her students have designed a Green Up Day mural for all participants to sign when dropping off their bags of road trash. Sally Bugg is organizing TA student participation.

More than 70 town residents have signed up to participate in Green Up Day. The TCC will provide refreshments at the drop off site.

Li reported on the wood turtle conservation project. A biologist paid by the Orianna Society is gearing up to do a landowner outreach in Thetford to educate riparian landowners about wood turtles and conservation practices. Li will be meeting with Kiley Briggs, the biologist, in a couple of weeks to go over parcel maps. Li will notify members of the TCC of upcoming meetings. A

turtle conservation documentary created by the Orienne Society will be publically available soon.

Connie announced that she will be asking the Select Board to re-appoint her to the Commission.

TCC members will continue contacting possible candidates for appointment to the Commission.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 23rd at 7:00PM in the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Tallman
Secretary