

## Thetford Conservation Commission Minutes

September 26, 2018

7:00PM

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

Guest: Scott Ellis

The Minutes of August 22, 2018 were amended and approved.

Scott Ellis, Coordinator of Thetford Academy Outdoor Program, reported his group of 11 students is working on a trails project as a part of their curriculum. Scott is assembling a group called the Thetford Hill Trails group that will include the Upper Valley Land Trust, Army Corps of Engineers and Upper Valley Trails Alliance. Grant money is being used to purchase trail building and maintenance tools. Jeff Smith of the Commission will join the group.

Scott also told the Commission about the coursework his class is doing on invasive plants that includes invasive plant removal. The class has been working with forester, Ehrhard Frost. The students will prepare public presentations of their invasive plant projects. Scott offered the Commission use of the trail tools and Libby offered the TA group use of two plant extractors owned by the Commission.

Jim and Libby reported that posters for the Kiley Briggs' Wood Turtle talk scheduled for 7 PM on October 24<sup>th</sup> at Thetford Academy are ready for distribution. The event will appear in the Town newsletter and postcards will be mailed to Thetford landowners who have land that abuts the river.

A live-animal event is planned for November 11<sup>th</sup> in West Fairlee. The topic will be "animals with bad reputations". A "brainy birds", live-animal event, is being planned for the spring of 2019.

Mascoma Bank was unable to provide the Commission funding for the natural resources inventory. The Commission may apply again to for Phase 2 of the inventory.

Ann contacted Select Board Chairman, Stuart Rogers, about contract and payment arrangements for Jesse Mohrx's work on the natural resources inventory. Jesse will start work on the Inventory in November.

Town-owned parcel management for 2019 was discussed. Ehrhard Frost will treat the phragmites at the Hughes Forest this fall. Tom Otterman will do survey work on the Taylor Floodplain Forest when the leaves are off the trees this fall. Ellis Paige has not submitted bills for mowing or drainage repair at the Post Mill Nature Area. It was agreed that the overall

management plans would remain as written. The Commission will meet with Ehrhard Frost on October 10<sup>th</sup> to discuss his work on town parcels this year and 2019 projects.

Commission membership was discussed. Libby plans to resign her position in March 2019. She will send a letter of resignation to the Select Board. Libby plans to remain active on the Commission as a volunteer. Libby reported that Judy Harvey is interested in joining the Commission. Ann has invited Rich Sanders, who is very interested in conservation and joining the TCC, to the October 2018 meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30PM.

The next meeting is October 10, 2018 at 7PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sue Tallman