

FINAL

Thetford Conservation Commission Minutes

April 10, 2019

7:00PM

Present: Jim McCracken, Connie Snyder, Judy Harvey, Bob Pulaski, Sara Cavin, Sue Tallman, Jeff Smith and Sue Fritz

Absent: Steve Lehman

Guest: Lisa Niccolai from the White River Nature Resource Conservation District

The Minutes of March 13, 2019 were approved.

Lisa Niccolai reported the WRNRC District involvement in outreach to local communities in VT and NH about the funds available for "Trees for Streams". Home owners and farm owners interested in planting trees in buffer zones along streams and rivers can receive up to \$4,000 per acre. The WRNRC District would welcome volunteer involvement and cost sharing but are not required. The sites suggested by members of the TCC were the Taylor Floodplain Preserve and the Malmquist property in Post Mills.

Contact information: Lisa Niccolai, Conservation Specialist
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The UVLT meeting on March 19, 2019 at Hypertherm in Lebanon, NH was discussed. Jim and Sue Tallman attended. Members of the Upper Valley Adaptation Workgroup led the clinic and the focus was regional climate patterns assessment and exploring the links and opportunities for action. Conservation commission members were encouraged to work with their town governments to address climate change repercussions. Thetford, with direction from the state of Vermont, is addressing culvert replacements.

Jeff reported the control burn at the Post Mills Natural Area is scheduled for early May, weather depending. Fire Chief, Chad Whitcomb will oversee the burn.

Jim reported on Green Up Day plans for May 4, 2019, 8AM to 12PM. TCC members volunteered to be at the recycling transfer station in Thetford the next three Saturdays to encourage road sign up. A new Green Up mural from TES will be on display at the town garage, May 4.

A spring festival is also planned by another town group at the Community Center from 12:30-4:30PM.

Education update was discussed. The owl program in the gym at TES was a success with approximately 300 attendees. The upcoming bird walk is on Saturday May 11, 7AM – 9:30AM at the Taylor Preserve in Post Mills. Dr George Clark will lead the walk.

Walks in June, July, Sept and October are in the planning stage with the West Fairlee CC.

Motion made and seconded to send a check for \$25 to the Stamp Wildlife Fund of VT as a donation for the tracking event in February 2019 led by Ali Thomas. Motion passed.

Judy, Connie, Sue F and Sue T will be ground truthing farm identification Thursday, April 11 for the town natural resources inventory. An update will be forwarded to Jesse Mohr.

Sue F reported her conversation with Kiley Briggs about the Thetford wood turtle population. He has located 24 turtles in Thetford. All are old. He is going to track some of them electronically to determine what needs to be done to improve nesting success.

Agenda items suggested for the May 8, 2019 meeting are:

Green Up Day report

Bird walk report

Future date to discuss vision of Town Forest with F & G members

The meeting was adjourned at 9pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Tallman