

Approved

Thetford Conservation Commission Meeting

October 23, 2019

7:00 PM

Present: Sue Fritz, Sara Cavin, Connie Snyder, Jeff Smith, Bob Pulaski, Steve Lehman and Sue Tallman

Absent: Judy Harvey, Jim McCracken

Guests: Ehrhard Frost and Li Shen

The Minutes of October 9, 2019 were approved.

Ehrhard Frost, town forester, presented his report of the past year accomplishments, monitoring results and recommendations for future work on the Hughes Forest, Post Mills Nature Area and the Town Forest owned by the Town of Thetford.

Hughes Forest: Forty-five acres of invasive control was defined and treated. Treatment cost was \$10,395. Cost to determine areas, supervision and administration was \$2,495.25. Total cost was \$12,890.25 for 39 acres. The project was under budget by \$1,664.75.

Town Forest: The stump dump was visited several times. Construction debris and other “non-stump” materials were found. According to an inquiry to the Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste Management District (GUVSWMD) only stumps, wood, branches and brush are permitted in a stump dump; items such as construction or demolition waste are not permitted. Natural materials will decompose to make room for new materials. This dump site is almost filled to capacity.

Post Mills Nature Area: The plan continues for mowing one of the three roughly equal units each year.

Hughes Forest: The overstory did not experience wind damage in 2019. Regeneration is prolific and developing well in the harvested areas. Species composition includes white pine, red maple, red oak, aspen, beech and other hardwoods. Invasive plants are noted in the southern-most acres of the East unit.

Ehrhard’s report included recommendations and estimates for work to be done in 2020. The TCC will study his report to plan a 2020 budget for presentation to the Thetford Town Manager and the Select Board.

Sara reported on the slide show "The Mysterious Mustelids," presented by Sue Morse at the Westshire Elementary School in West Fairlee and partnered with the West Fairlee CC. Eighty adults and children attended.

The education committee will focus on Jesse Mohr's NRI (Natural Resources Inventory). Jesse's presentation of Phase I will take place at the United Church of Thetford in North Thetford on November 14, 2019. The door will open at 6:30 PM with light refreshments and the talk will start at 7 PM. The TCC will print maps for the discussion. Educational activities for 2020 will be planned around Jesse's recommendations for Phase II. Advertising for this event will include posters, listserv postings and invitations to local select boards and conservation commissions.

The next meeting agenda will include a discussion and formulation of a budget proposal to the town manager.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Tallman