

## Minutes of the Thetford Conservation Commission – December 9, 2015

Present: Li Shen, Libby Chapin, Skip Sturman, Steve Lehman, Connie Snyder, Jeff Smith, Ann Lavanway

Absent: Bob Pulaski, Jason Berard

Guest: Jim McCracken

1. The minutes from the November 11th meeting were approved as amended.
2. Connie will contact Paul Rump about making a sign for DeCola Wetland Forest.
3. Skip will be stepping down from the Commission at the end of this year.
4. Jim McCracken is interesting in joining the Commission and he will send a letter to the Select Board to request appointment to the position that Skip holds.
5. Li went over a list of accomplishments: Ely Mountains, trained volunteers and collected water samples, timber harvest on Hughes, the Town Forest was treated for invasive plants, three talks, bird walk, started ongoing inventory of invasives, crown jewel walk on Grossman property, improvements at PMNA (culvert, pines), dealt with boundary issues on town-owned property. Skip will put together a summary
6. The Commission talked about strategies for improving communication with the Select Board.
7. Libby gave a review of the 2015 educational programs. Skip has suggested that the educational group send a survey monkey to the email list that has been generated from the events. The purpose of the survey will be to assess which events and aspects of the events the participants most enjoyed.
8. The upcoming year's educational theme is "The Year of Our Backyards." The Commission discussed possible types of events for this theme.
9. The mowed path on the Taylor parcel should be narrower than it is currently. Connie will work with the person who is doing the mowing. The Commission will plan to put up markers to mark distances from the river.
10. There was a meeting on Sunday to discuss the water testing results. The results are not much different from the 2007 results. In general, the sources of the *E. coli* are agricultural, septic and storm-water. The State is going to assemble a report from the results of the survey and send them to the participating towns so that town officials may report the findings at town meeting.
11. UVLT is holding a bake sale at the recycling center on December 19<sup>th</sup>.
12. Li and Ehrhard Frost will treat some of the larger buckthorns on the Taylor Floodplain Forest tomorrow.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55PM.

Reminder that Commission members should let Li know ahead of time if they cannot attend the next Conservation Commission meeting, so that she may plan accordingly.

Our next meeting is January 13, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Lavanway