

Minutes of the Thetford Conservation Commission – 11 March 2015 at 7:15 PM

Present: Li Shen, Bob Pulaski, Skip Sturman, Jeff Smith, Connie Snyder, Ann Lavanway

Absent: Jason Berard, Libby Chapin

Guests: Steve Lehman, Judy Ozahowski

1. Minutes from the 2/25/15 meeting were approved as amended.
2. The Commission voted to formally recognize Skip Sturman for his efforts on bringing the Ely Mountain Conservation Project to successful completion.
3. Connie reported that George Clark will lead a bird watching walk at the Taylor Flood Plain Preserve on May 16<sup>th</sup>. The rain date will be May 17<sup>th</sup>.
4. Connie reported on her conversation with Mike Pomeroy. The transfer of the state forest and state park to the town is still in the works. The state will retain the area where the CCC pavilion is located. Jeff will talk with Mike Snyder of Vermont Parks and Recreation about the transfer progress.
5. Connie talked with Tig Tillinghast about the proposed trails from Thetford Center to Thetford Hill. One possible trail is off Rt. 113 and the other is off Buzzell Bridge Road. Tig, RSG, Mike Pomeroy, Vtrans, Two-Rivers Ottauquechee and two consultants are working on the planning. They will need to run latest thinking by selectboard. The plan will then go through an environmental review, critter census and public input will be solicited.
6. The White River Natural Resources Conservation District is moving forward with a grant application to fund water sampling of the Ompompanoosuc this summer (containers and lab analysis) to check *E. coli* levels. They are proposing to sample 14 sites from Vershire to Thetford. The project will need volunteers to collect samples and take readings.
7. Li reported on the discussion at town meeting of the petition that was put forward about the renewal of Fish and Game Club lease of the Town Forest.
8. The Commission will prepare of list of immediate management needs to be accomplished this year.
9. Li reported that Ehrhard will be meeting with the Selectboard to discuss invasive management treatment on the Town Forest. The treatment would be to prepare the site for timber management. Ehrhard told Li that another priority for the Town Forest is to identify reserve areas.
10. The total stumpage for the Hughes Forest timber harvest is \$48,853 to date.
11. Members will discuss the Town Forest management plan at our meeting on March 25<sup>th</sup>.
12. Skip told the Commission that the West Fairlee Conservation Commission has asked members of the Thetford Commission to attend a meeting on March 24<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting adjourned at 8:51PM.

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 25 March 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Lavanway