

Minutes of the Thetford Conservation Commission – 12 June 2013 at 7:15 PM
Present: Li Shen, Skip Sturman, Connie Snyder, Jeff Smith, Libby Chapin, Eric Pyle, Jason Berard, Ann Lavanway

Absent: Bob Pulaski

Guest: Mike Pomeroy

1. Minutes from the 5-22-13 meeting were approved.
2. The Bear Creek Phase 2 Geomorphic invoices #1062 for \$1,860 (to be paid from State Ecosystem Restoration Program) and #1063 for \$740 (to be paid from MEF money in a town account) were approved for payment.
3. The Commission voted to reinstate the current officers for another year: Li Shen, Chair; Eric Pyle, Vice Chair; Bob Pulaski, Treasurer; Ann Lavanway, Secretary.
4. The Conservation Commission will offer volunteer fundraising support and \$2,500 in support from the Conservation Fund for the Crossroad Farm conservation project.
5. The language of the easement draft for the Taylor parcel allows snowmobiles at the discretion of the landowner. The covenant on the property excludes motorized vehicles. The Commission will request that the easement reflect these restrictions. The current snowmobile trail needs to be relocated because the eroding riverbank is undermining the trail. Jeff will contact the snowmobile club that maintains a trail on the parcel to talk about relocating the trail.
6. The official name of the Taylor parcel will now be the Taylor Floodplain Preserve.
7. At our last meeting, Mike has asked the Commission to develop town policy for mowing that takes into consideration invasive control and wildlife considerations (e.g. Bird nesting protection). He would also like to have the Commission show the highway department how to identify invasive plant species. We need to provide the highway department with a list of invasive plant species that are in town. Li will gather information about existing invasive species and Jason will contact Mike Bald.
8. There continues to be a problem with ATVs trespassing on Hughes Forest via the old Hughes homestead. Trespassers cut down the trees that held a cable to keep ATVs out of the homestead. The Selectboard will take care of posting the area.
9. Members of the Commission and guests walked Deecie Dennison's property last Saturday.
10. Ehrhard will walk the Hughes Forest with members of the Commission in late June to look at areas of the pine forest to harvest this winter.
11. Libby told the Commission about The Great Fairlee Wetlands Symposium on Wednesday, July 17 at 7PM at the Lake Morey Resort.
12. Skip, Libby and members of the West Fairlee and Norwich Conservation Commissions met with Elise Tillinghast of Northern Woodlands to talk about ways Northern Woodlands can work with local commissions.
13. Mike updated the Commission on the Trails Plan. Phase 2 of the Thetford

Hill plan will happen next summer.

Meeting adjourned at 9:02PM.

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

Our next meeting is June 26, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Lavanway