

Minutes of the Thetford Conservation Commission – January 11, 2012 at 7:15 PM

Present: Li Shen, Amy McElroy, Bob Pulaski, Eric Pyle, Libby Chapin, Ann Lavanway, Stephanie Carter

Absent: Skip Sturman, Connie Snyder

Guests: Chris Sargent - senior planner from Two Rivers Ottawaquechee Regional Planning Commission, Liora Alschuler - Thetford Planning Commission

1. The minutes from December 14 were approved.
2. Li presented amended adoption language of the Jan 2011 “Wetland Inventory, Assessment and maps”. These changes were recommended by Richard Blacklow, the Thetford Zoning Administrator. The Commission approved the adoption of the following new language:

*On November 30th 2009 the Thetford Conservation Commission, with the approval of the Thetford Selectboard, submitted a grant proposal to the NH Charitable Foundation to map Thetford's wetlands. The proposal was approved by the NH Charitable Foundation on Jan 20th 2010 and a contract covering the wetland study was drawn up between the Town of Thetford and Arrowwood Environmental and signed by Tig Tillinghast, Selectboard Chair, on February 8th 2010.*

*The Thetford Conservation Commission hereby adopts the Jan 2011 Wetland Inventory, Assessment and the maps produced by Arrowwood Environmental as our partial assessment of Thetford's wetlands.*

3. Ted Levin will walk with us on his land on a Sunday in February. Skip will try to pin down a date and time.
4. Temple Grandin is speaking at the Lake Morey resort, January 21, at 7 pm.
5. The Education Committee is interested in compiling a resource guide of environmental specialists that other Conservation Commissions could share. Libby asked if Commission members are willing to put their names on a list of people that would be willing to accompany group walks and events.
6. Discussion of updates to the Thetford Town Plan. Information was presented by guests Chris Sargent, Senior Planner, Two Rivers Ottawaquechee Regional Planning Commission (TRORC) and Liora Alschuler - Thetford Planning Commission. TRORC is not requiring any input from the Conservation Commission, but welcomes it. Li noted that there is very little information in the current plan on rivers. She suggests seeing some language dealing with fluvial erosion factors. Chris asked if we wanted to include information from the Linking Land Alliance. Affordability and Energy incentives are possibilities for Planned Developments. Clustering houses and distance from town centers can be other zoning incentives. Libby asked how difficult it is to establish overlays for all water bodies in Thetford. An overlay district would need to be mapped, and the goals of the district would need to be specified. We can recommend to the Planning Commission that the town should recognize overlay districts. Liora suggested that we hold a publicized meeting between the Planning Commission and the Conservation Commission to discuss issues and recommendations from the Conservation Commission. In September or October a draft of the plan should be ready for final discussions and public hearings. The goal is to adopt the new plan in 2013. The Commission will try to draft an updated Natural Resources chapter. This chapter overlaps with the Land Use and Transportation Chapters.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

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

Our next meeting is February 8.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amy McElroy