

Minutes of the Thetford Conservation Commission – November 28, 2012 at 7:15 PM

Present: Jason Berard, Connie Snyder, Bob Pulaski, Eric Pyle, Skip Sturman, Amy McElroy, Li Shen, Libby Chapin

Absent: Ann Lavanway

Guests: none

1. Minutes from November 14 were approved.
2. Donn Downey confirmed that we can spend the remainder of our budget on the blue bird and wood duck houses. Duck boxes start at about \$66 and blue bird houses start at about \$20. The commission voted to purchase six bluebird houses, two wood duck houses, and poles and other installation materials. Li will order the boxes.
3. Discussed inviting our Selectboard liaison, Tig Tillinghast, to an upcoming meeting. Topics we might want to discuss are: the state forest, the shooting range, the trails plan, money for management plans, and the road crew's work with respect to invasives. Libby said that Better Back Roads has helped towns with invasives control. VLCT has model shoreline protection by-laws that towns can use. Libby is going to share that information with the Planning Commission. This may also be a topic to discuss with our Selectboard liaison. Li will invite Tig for December 12.
4. Town parcel management. Boundaries - It is our goal to permanently blaze the boundaries of the town parcels, to be clear about which areas are under TCC/town management, and to guard against encroachment by abutters. The first step is to flag the boundaries. Then the abutter needs to agree with the flagged line before the line can be blazed and painted. The flagging we put up along all boundaries in 2009 needs to be renewed. In many cases the old flagging has fallen down, so boundaries will have to be re-established from survey maps using clues like stone walls, barbed wire, etc. Winter, before snowfall (i.e. now), is a good time to do this as visibility is better when leaves and underbrush are down. We need volunteers to perform the flagging. Jason volunteered to show Commission members how to use a GPS. It would be helpful to use a GPS for flagging. Li will send around a calendar to try to schedule some flagging.
5. Hughes North. We need to continue to cut trees (but not mow) to keep the old field in early succession as stated in the management plan. Saplings and brambles constitute early succession/shrubland habitat and should be encouraged. Winter is a good time to do this.
6. Scenic Roads. According to the chapter on scenic resources in the town plan, the Thetford Conservation Commission was in charge of inventorying the town's scenic roads. At the time of the chapter's writing the TCC had inspected 40 miles of roads. The Planning Commission would like to know if this project is still underway / necessary. Bob reported on the work that was done on this in the 1980's. The Thetford Conservation Commission is no longer working on this project. It could be revived at some time in the future.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

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 December 12, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy McElroy