

Minutes of the Thetford Conservation Commission – December 12, 2012 at 7:15 PM

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

Absent: Connie Snyder

Guests: none

1. Minutes from November 28 were approved.
2. Approved two invoices from Bear Creek Environmental for the Ompompanoosuc River Phase 2 study fieldwork:
 - Invoice 1009 in the amount of \$4800 funded by ERP grant (Ecosystem Restoration Program) for Task 4 and 5 – Stream Geomorphic Assessment, Phase 2 field work 100% complete.
 - Invoice 1010 in the amount of \$2600 funded by MEF (Mitigation Enhancement Fund) \$1200 for Task 4 Stream Geomorphic Assessment, Phase 2 field work. \$1400 for Task 5 Stream Geomorphic Assessment, Phase 2 field work.
3. Approved invoices for: three duck boxes costing \$164.85 and six bluebird boxes costing \$125.94. Discussed “who, when, where, how” to put up the bird boxes. Jason mentioned a website about best practices for wood duck box placement.
4. Tig Tillinghast (our Selectboard liaison) was not able to attend tonight’s meeting, but he contacted Li about some of the issues we wanted to discuss with him.
 - The Selectboard is considering a proposal that the town take ownership of the State Park and State forest land in Thetford. Tig said the town has a possible funding source for maintaining the land.
 - Tig thinks the \$5000, which was budgeted for invasives control on the town owned land, is designated just for the invasives control plan, but would be open for revision. The Commission is interested in funding for the mowing at PMNA, now that the WHIP grant is ending.
 - Tig suggested that Scott Knowlton might come to a Conservation Commission meeting to discuss roadside mowing and other invasives control issues.
5. The GPS training with Jason will take place Saturday, December 15, at 10:00 am at Hughes Forest. Attendees will meet at Poor Farm Road South.
6. Boundary flagging. Some work is needed at PMNA, Town Forest, and the Taylor parcel. The Hughes Forest is mostly done. Jason, Libby, and Bob are interested in working on the flagging.
7. More tree cutting on Hughes North is needed. Jason, Bob, and Eric will take care of it.
8. Li gave an update on Trees for Streams. Kerry O’Brien (Caledonia County Natural Resources Conservation District) has resuscitated Trees for Streams. There are five properties in the Post Mills area that are interested in doing plantings. There are three properties in other Thetford locations that are interested in plantings as well. Kerry O’Brien and Mary Nealon (Bear Creek Environmental) visited the sites and wrote an evaluation, which Li shared with the Commission, on whether Trees for Streams would be a good fit for these locations.
9. Amy will be going off of the Commission. Her last meeting will be January 9.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 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 January 9, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy McElroy