

Minutes of the Thetford Conservation Commission – February 8, 2012 at 7:15 PM

Present: Li Shen, Amy McElroy, Bob Pulaski, Libby Chapin, Ann Lavanway, Skip Sturman, Connie Snyder

Absent: Eric Pyle, Stephanie Carter

Guests: None

1. The minutes from January 11 were approved.
2. The Trails Master Plan will be presented on Monday, Feb. 13, 7:30 – 8:30 at the Selectboard meeting.
3. Li asked whether the Conservation Commission supports an initiative by Bill Bridge (of the Development Review Board) asking the Planning Commission to amend the zoning bylaw to include a 100 foot setback (for construction) from the Connecticut River. The Commission would like some documentation regarding this proposal before deciding whether to support it or not. For example, what do the Connecticut River Joint Commission and the Connecticut River Watershed Council recommend concerning such a setback. Li will try to bring information to our next meeting.
4. Crown jewel walk at Ted Levin's property is scheduled for Sunday Feb 26, 10am-12.
5. Skip led a discussion on Conservation Commission organization and member involvement. He reviewed the Ad Hoc Education Sub-Committee's charrette. Sub-committees for the Commission to consider:
 - A. Promoting Conservation – including partnering with other Conservation Commissions. This could involve organizing gatherings to promote conservation.
 - B. Education Committee – develop educational programs to involve the community. Suggested having an annual theme.
 - C. Management and Stewardship of town properties.

Having sub-committees will take some of the load off of Li, whose role has been key in almost everything we've done. The theme "Year of the Tree" was agreed on for this year's educational programs. Li will contact Commission members to see what type of involvement they would like to have.

6. Discussed briefly the possible conservation of the Taylor Parcel. Decided to discuss further at our next meeting.
7. On March 7 from 7-9 pm, Susan Morse, animal specialist, is speaking at the Westshire School in West Fairlee.
8. June 2 is National Trails Day and September 29 is National Public Lands Day.

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 22.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy McElroy