

Minutes of the Thetford Conservation Commission – March 14th, 2012 at 7:15 PM

Present: Li Shen, Bob Pulaski, Libby Chapin, Skip Sturman, Eric Pyle, Connie Snyder, Ann Lavanway

Absent: Amy McElroy

Guests: Jason Berard, Donn Downey (Selectboard Chair)

1. The minutes from February 22 were approved with revisions.
2. Donn is trying to overlay the wetland inventory map produced by Arrowwood with previous wetlands maps. The Selectboard will discuss what will be done with the new map sometime in the next few weeks.
3. The Commission has five members whose terms expire this year. Libby, Connie, Skip and Ann have asked to be reappointed. Stephanie Carter has resigned from the Commission. Jason Berard has submitted a letter of interest to the Selectboard for the open Commission position.
4. The Selectboard liaison to the Commission will be Tig Tillinghast for this year.
5. Donn spoke to the Commission about the next steps in the Town's Trails Master Plan. The Selectboard is requesting a statement from the Commission about the plan.
6. Commission members discussed the trails plan. Libby would like to have the Town be sure there is a group that will use trails before they are constructed. Skip stated that the Commission has other obligations for trails (Zebedee). Eric would like to see trails incorporated into the transportation network. Connie has asked for explicit language for affected habitats to be fully investigated before trails are constructed and to utilize existing roads in trails. Li mentioned the need for sidewalks in East Thetford. The Commission has assembled a list of suggested changes to the Trails Master Plan and will write a statement that outlines guiding principles for conservation as a part of the establishing and managing trails. Skip and Connie will draft a statement and send it to the Commission for input.
7. Donn signed the Phase II Geomorphic Study Standard Agreement on behalf of the Selectboard.

(Donn left the meeting)

8. Connie spoke with Janet and Tim Taylor about having a birding walk on the Taylor parcel. They would like to have the walk held before Mother's Day weekend. Connie will reach out to Dr. George Clark to find out if he is available to lead a walk the weekend of April 28<sup>th</sup>. Connie and Ann will work on organizing the walk.
9. Libby distributed a "Trees – Friends with Benefits" handout from town meeting.
10. Commission members discussed possible changes to the website.
11. Thanks to John Chapin, the Commission may have an opportunity to walk the O'Hurley property in June or July. Skip will coordinate this walk with

Mr. O'Hurley, Mr. Chapin and Commission members.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00PM.

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 March 28th.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Lavanway