

Minutes of the Thetford Conservation Commission – March 23, 2016_final

Present: Li Shen, Bob Pulaski, Libby Chapin, Jason Berard, Jim McCracken, Jeff Smith, Connie Snyder, Ann Lavanway

Absent: Steve Lehman

Guests: Walter Newman, Sue Fritz

1. The minutes from the March 9, 2016 meeting were approved.
2. The stumpage income from the timber harvest on the Town Forest was \$2,883.42 and the forester invoice was for \$843.50. The harvest will continue next winter.
3. Li reported on the “Staying Connected” initiative conference that she attended. “Vermont is a crossroads for several important regional wildlife corridors in the Northern Appalachian - Acadian region (encompasses NY, VT, NH, MA (part), ME, New Brunswick, Quebec Gaspé Peninsula, Nova Scotia; together = largest temperate broadleaf forest block in the world); Thetford is included in one of these corridors. Habitat fragmentation is a major threat to connectivity.”
4. Li talked about the natural resources chapter of the Town Plan.
5. Jeff is trying to reach Chad Whitcomb, Thetford Fire Chief, about burning some of the field areas at PMNA to remove thatch.
6. The Commission voted to send a letter to the Park Rangers at the Union Village Dam Park asking that the beavers be allowed to remain to the park.
7. Libby talked about tomorrow night’s talk by Henry Homeyer.
8. Jim prepared an educational handout about garlic mustard. The handout will be used as a part of the Commission’s garlic mustard plant removal initiative.
9. Jim and Libby decided to scale back garlic mustard management plans for this year. Libby presented a new list of tasks, objectives and timeline for the initiative.
10. Jim talked about his presentation to seventh graders at Thetford Academy on the spring migration of salamanders and frogs.
11. Connie noted that Li and Ehrhard did a lot of invasive treatment on the Taylor Floodplain Forest.
12. We will plan to use the May 11th meeting to scout for garlic mustard.
13. Members of the Commission will work to confirm the trail layout on PMNA.
14. Li will invite Ehrhard to attend the April 27th meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:06PM.

Reminder that Commission members should let Li know ahead of time if they cannot attend the next Conservation Commission meeting, so that she may plan accordingly.

Our next meeting is April 13, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Lavanway