

Minutes of the Thetford Conservation Commission – April 11, 2012 at 7:15 PM

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

Absent: Bob Pulaski

Guests: Donn Downey, Thetford Selectboard

1. The minutes from March 28 were approved as amended.
2. Donn Downey discussed his Masters Degree thesis in Environmental Studies / Conservation Biology at Antioch University New England. His thesis is on invasive species treatment as a tool in Forest Management. He will treat invasives on town owned property for his study. Three methods (manual pulling, herbicide (probably glyphosate), and no treatment) will take place in probably three locations. He will measure regeneration. The study spans two years. He will consider if native plants should be planted as a follow up to the invasives treatment. Education outreach may be a benefit of his study. The Commission gave their support of Donn's study.

The Commission asked for details on which chemicals will be applied, where they will be applied, and when they will be applied. Donn will flag the plots and let the Commission know these details before doing the invasives treatment. Donn will also send the Conservation Commission a report of the invasives work that he did last fall in the Hughes Forest.

3. The Commission is interested in having a donation basket at the upcoming Tom Wessels talk. Donn will find out and report to Li on the town's policy for accepting monetary donations for such events.
4. Discussed the Commission's suggested revisions to the Trails Master Plan with Donn. The Selectboard meeting to discuss the proposed changes to the plan, which have been submitted by committees and individuals, will probably be on April 30.
5. Post Mills thatch burning. The fire department is interested in burning the thatch as a training exercise. Burning can take place up to the last week in April.
6. Jason Berard has been officially appointed to the Conservation Commission.
7. Donn will schedule a time and date on a Selectboard agenda to consider adoption of the Wetland Survey.
8. Connie led a discussion regarding conservation of the Taylor parcel. James Thaxton of UVLT, Connie, and Li walked the property. James was enthusiastic about the idea of conserving the parcel. It is possible that UVLT could help with the effort. The following motion was voted on and approved: The Conservation Commission approves in principal the conservation of the Taylor Parcel and the appropriation of \$5000 from the Conservation Trust Fund, dependent on the Commission's approval of Conservation Project Assistance application.
9. Tom Wessel's talk is on April 26. West Fairlee is contributing \$200. Thetford is contributing \$200. \$72 for travel expenses is coming from a private donation. Publicity is under way. Commission members are asked to bring refreshments, help with set-up, and distribute flyers. Amy will make posters for a sign board on Thetford Hill.
10. The George Clark bird walk will be on Saturday, May 19.
11. Libby presented the idea that the Commission donate a tree to the Elementary School in honor of Arbor Day and the "Year of the Tree". The Commission approved the idea. Libby will lead the effort. Commission members donated \$40 to pay for the tree.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 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 May 9.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amy McElroy