

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

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

Absent: Libby Chapin Guest: Tig Tillinghast (Selectboard Liaison)

1. The minutes from June 13 were approved as amended.
2. In lieu of meetings since June 13, the Commission walked the O’Hurley property (June 18) and the Zebedee Wetland (June 27).
3. Approved the following two invoices for the Ompompanoosuc River Phase 2 study:
 Bear Creek invoice 980 for \$2400. The invoice is for “Task 2: 25% completion of the Phase 2 fieldwork” and is being funded by the Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP).
 Bear Creek invoice 982 for \$2400. The invoice is for “Task 3: 50% completion of the Phase 2 fieldwork” and is being funded by the Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP).
4. Li read a letter announcing that the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions (AVCC) is affiliating with the Vermont Natural Resources Council (VNRC).
5. Lake Fest is Saturday, August 11 at Treasure Island.
6. Li reported that a Better Back Roads grant will restore Lake Fairlee bank plantings along Robinson Hill Road in early September. Volunteer help will be needed.
7. Zebedee Wetland and Linny Levin trail - Subsequent to the Commission’s walk/meeting at the Zebedee Wetland on June 27, Pete Helm (UVLT), Connie, and Jason (UVLT) have been following up on the Linny Levin trail design and related issues. Tig said that “Safe Routes to School” is a federal block grant that may be a source of money for the trail.

The following motion was made and seconded: The Thetford Conservation Commission moves to approve the transfer of the funds, currently held by the Town of Thetford Conservation Trust Fund for construction of the Linny Levin Trail, to a dedicated UVLT Linny Levin Memorial Trail fund for the construction and ongoing maintenance of the trail. The motion passed (Jason Berard abstained).

Discussed a trail dedication ceremony and notification of the dedication to donors. Discussed the kiosk design. Jason will talk to the Snow Coasters about the gate modification. We discussed using local hemlock for bridges. Jason will explore. Jason and Pete Helm will set up a project timeline and plans for the volunteer work parties (probably a Friday and a Saturday workday in two separate weeks). It would be nice to have a video of the work days. Perhaps a student project could document the trail work. Li will send a request to Jill Graff to transfer the funds to UVLT. Li will contact Ted Levin to let him know the trail is moving forward.

8. The Trees for Streams program is being resuscitated through Carey O'Brien at Caledonia County Natural Resources Conservation District. White River NRCD will hire someone to replace Samantha Clough in the fall. Kerry O'Brien is contacting riverside landowners who expressed interest in a buffer planting and will do site visits in August. She will contact NH Charitable Foundation to get an extension of the MEF funding awarded to Trees for Streams under Abbey Willard. The Commission’s job will be to get volunteers and school kids to help with plantings. We’d like to do the planting in the spring since we will be busy this fall with the Zebedee trail.

One of the possible locations for plantings is the Taylor parcel. Connie will try to contact the West Fairlee snowmobile club to discuss their trail along the river.

9. Skip sent the completed Crown Jewel Matrix to Mr. O’Hurley, but has not gotten any feedback. We will hold off for now on more Crown Jewel walks.

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 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 August 22.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy McElroy