

## West Fairlee Conservation Commission

### Draft Minutes – Meeting of October 27, 2015

**Attending:** Cleo Kearns, Ann Stephens, Peggy Willey

The meeting began at 7:06 PM.

**1. Minutes:** the Commission's meetings of September 22, 2015 were not approved, as they had not been documented yet, and there was not a quorum to vote on approval.

**2. Treasurer's Report:** No Treasurer's report was available. However, with Joe McPherson as the new Treasurer, reports should be forthcoming soon.

**3. New Business:** The Conservation Commission is actively seeking new members, and discussion ensued as to attract new members, as well as what strengths we need in new members to complement the skills of current members. Cleo will check the bylaws to see if a potential members have to be a resident, or just a landowner. Some desirable attributes would be someone experienced in Fund-raising, events, and particularly events with children, computer / web savvy, possibly someone that can wield a chainsaw, though heavy work could also be hired, rather than expecting a member to do it for free.

**4. Brushwood-** Gilles letter update regarding the Scanlon Parcel has been written and sent. The town needs to pass an ordinance before the suggested signage can be posted.

Multiple use of trails in Brushwood North. VASA/Westshire has reported back to us that they do not have sufficient funding **or manpower** at this time to maintain/restore the trails to the level discussed at our last meeting.

Snowmobile trail work – Ann to see if Glenn McKinley has received feedback from Dave Paganelli. He would like to fill in some ditches that are so deep that the Snowmobiles cannot safely go over them, and would tend to go off the trail to avoid them.

Kiosk maps – Marcia Dunning offered to post an updated map to the Rivendell Kiosk at the French Property. Ann to see if this has happened, or if she has had trouble removing the screws to get behind the plexiglass.

Trails in Brushwood North- Peggy, Guy and Ann started blazing the footpath, but have not finished the entire loop. **Guy and Karla will finish and blaze.**

Keys to the Gate to the French property need to be distributed, along with recipients signing the key policy that Ann & Rebecca worked on. The 4 keys should be distributed to: Fire Dept, Town Clerk, a Selectboard member (Delsie) and a Conservation Commission member (Ann). **Ann will contact Rebecca to help with distribution.**

Trails in Brushwood South – Frank's Footpath connecting the Presidential Loop to Bald Top has been made and flagged. To put it on the map, it first needs to be traced with a GPS (Ann), then find someone to convert this digital information to a format that can be added to a map.

Some trees obstructing the view of the White Mountains on the Presidential loop have been cut; discussion about others that still could be cut, or wait until we have logging activity in the area.

**5. Ompompanoosuc Monitoring:** There will be a meeting in December to present findings from the Water sampling project. Discussion regarding how to disseminate information about the Clean Water Act.

Potential dam projects on the Ompompanoosuc were discussed.

Trees for streams – Cleo will post on the List Serve our drive to find landowners in West Fairlee who would like to become candidates for this project.

**6. Conte Refuge:** The conservation commission **will** let the Conte Refuge know about the WFCC **response**, and other conservation efforts under way in the area and what collaborations are possible.

**7. Education:** November 12, 7 PM at Westshire: presentation on Bumblebees **by Sara Zahendra.** Set-up volunteers to arrive 6: 15. Refreshments: Ann-cookies, Rebecca- beverage, Jim- Popcorn and

announce the speaker; John- cheese **and crackers**, Peggy- Fruits or veggies.

**8. STZ Update** Peggy to determine what progress is being made.

**9. Control of Invasive species:** No specific plans were made, but it was determined that a Wild Chervil and knotweed campaign should occur last half of May through first half of June.

**10. Next meeting :** Donna **Goldberg** would like to come to our next meeting **along with Ben Machin** to discuss conservation ideas and possible collaborations **with SandBreagh Wildlands Sanctuary and Trust**. Since no one appears to be going out of town for Thanksgiving, it was decided to hold our next meeting at the usual 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month, Nov 24. Peggy will notify Donna.

**11. Adjourn:** For lack of a key and more participants, the meeting moved to Cleo's house, where it finished the business described above and adjourned at 8:50 PM