

Conservation Commission

Draft Minutes – Meeting of November 24th, 2015

Attending: Jim Totin, Rebecca Wurdak, Peggy Willey, Fred Cook, Cleo Kearns, and visitors: Olga Sobko, Donna Goldberg, Ben Machin.

Secretary's report: minutes Of October meeting: read and accepted unanimously

Treasurer's Report: BCF Fund-73,208.96 (includes Gilles Bill and \$20 for Fairlee Town Clerk); CC Fund 5,468.18 (includes payment to Sara Zahendra for Educational presentation on Bees). Moved, and unanimously accepted.

1. **New Business:**

Donna Goldberg and Ben Machin re: SandBreagh Wildlands Sanctuary and Trust. Donna and Ben presented maps, showing conservation initiatives in Vershire/Corinth/West Fairlee corner, and discussed successes they have had in conserving lands that provide contiguous wildlife corridors. The CC could help by researching the most promising conservation areas in West Fairlee.

2. **Budget-** CC Budget request due to Selectboard at meeting prior to Dec. Rebecca will send by e-mail. Anticipated budget items for 2016 were drawn up.

3. **Town Report highlights for 2015-**Peggy presented an outline for the CC to review. Ann will write it up for the Town Report.

4. **Brushwood Community Forest-**

Brushwood North- Bruce Durkee spoke to the Selectboard about the need to close out the VASA trails in Brushwood North with an option to reopen at some future date if maintenance and funds are available.. He will contact Dave Paganelli regarding signage and deal with updates to the VASA trail maps. Peggy will contact Jonathan Blake for advice on best method to block the former trails in this area. If needed to accelerate the process, it was voted that the CC would be willing to share the cost of trailhead closure with VASA , but it would need to be done before winter sets in.

5. **Gilles letter of Opinion** will have to be corrected and refiled at Fairlee and West Fairlee Town Clerk's offices. We voted up to \$40 to cover this fee.

6. **Brushwood South/ French Parcel Gate Keys-** distributed with key agreement. Fred signed for Selectboard copy, Ann will bring one to Baccei's for the Fire Department; *the remaining key will be in the CC file cabinet with the signed agreements.*

5. **Ompompanoosuc Water Sampling-** CC members and village volunteers from West Fairlee and Thetford will meet on Dec 6th at 6pm in the WFCC offices with Mary Childs, Ben Copans and Danielle (new Basin 14 director) to discuss results of water sampling and next steps to take in reducing E.coli and nutrient levels

Adjourn: 9:17 PM