

West Fairlee Conservation Commission

Draft Minutes –Meeting of February 24, 2015

Attending: John Boutin, Geoffrey Gardner, Ann Stephens, Peggy Willey, Rebecca Wurdak and Guest: Linda Baccei

The meeting began at 7:10 PM.

- 1. Firewood and Brushwood Community Forest:** Linda Baccei of the West Fairlee Community Club joined us for a discussion about how Brushwood Community Forest (BCF) might be used as a source for firewood to be distributed to townspeople in need of winter heating assistance. Issues discussed included: marking trees for harvest, insurance and safety concerns, determination of need, volunteers, delivery, storage and seasoning, cost of project, public and private support through grants and other funding, etc. Linda will contact Linda Cook in Norwich to discuss how they do something of this kind, using the Norwich town forest as the source. Linda will also consider how the extent of need in West Fairlee can be determined. Peggy will discuss the extent of possible supply of firewood from BCF could be. Geoff will investigate what state agencies and programs might be sources of assistance.
- 2. Minutes:** Minutes of the December meeting were not available.
- 3. Treasurer's Report:** Because of the absence of monthly financial information, there was no treasurer's report.
- 4. Town Meeting:** There was a discussion of creating this year's display for Town Meeting. Peggy and Geoff will work on text and gathering photographs for a triptych display.
- 5. Water:** Peggy reported that Jim Ryan needs a list of high priority water projects by Friday for grant applications. The sense of the group was that bacteria monitoring of the Ompompanoosuc continues to be the top priority, but monitoring could be extended to Blood Brook and Middle Brook as well. There was discussion reviewing and assessing the February 5th presentation. The sense of the group is that the presentation was a great success from the point of view of information gathered and presented as well as with respect to bringing together people most concerned and most likely to be a core group for acting on the issues identified.
- 6. Brushwood Community Forest:** The group discussed focusing on trails this spring: A) Ann and John will continue work on designing, making and placing trail signs. B) Ann and Geoff will prepare to make the Brushwood North/South connector trail permanent. They will contact the Upper Valley Trails Alliance for help with final location and clearing in April and May. C) Permanently mark the North Brushwood trail proposed by Guy. D) The new brochure is finished and Geoff will send it to all members as a PDF.
- 7. Fundraising:** We will ask the Thetford Conservation Commission if some members can come to our March meeting to discuss how they raised funds for the Ely Mountain conservation project.
- 8. Townwide Composting:** Geoff offered a brief summary of where the effort had been over the past three years. The group reviewed the State requirements briefly. John has dealt with Bob Sanders the composter in Corinth and will call him and see where things might stand with him.
- 9. Cross Rivendell Trail Association:** The Cross Rivendell Trail Association has asked if we could send someone to talk with them about our Brushwood Community Forest Trails their annual meeting on March 29. Ann and Geoff will take this on.
- 10. Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 9:10.