

West Fairlee Conservation Commission

Approved Minutes – Meeting of July 28, 2015

Attending: John Boutin, Geoffrey Gardner, Ann Stephens, Jim Totin, Peggy Willey, Rebecca Wurdak

The meeting began at 7:10 PM.

1. Minutes: It was moved, seconded and passed unanimously to approve as slightly amended the minutes of the Commission's meetings of May 26 and June 23, 2015.

2. Treasurer's Report: No Treasurer's report was available.

3. Election of Officers: It was moved, seconded and passed unanimously to elect new officers for the year as follows: Co-Chairs – John Boutin and Peggy Willey; Secretary – Ann Stephens; Treasurer – Rebecca Wurdak.

3. Junk Removal From the Ompompanoosuc in the Vicinity of the School: John reported on his and Peggy's recent meetings on site with Sacha Pealer and Julie Foley, respectively of the Rivers and Wetlands Programs of the Department of Environmental Conservation. Sacha and Julie made the determination that the cleanup site is definitely a wetland and is definitely in the floodplain. On this basis they made the determination that no permit would be needed if removal of junk and cleanup afterwards involved no digging, no spreading of fill, no entry into the wetland of equipment, no damage to swale draining into the wetland and removal of no more than very few small trees to accomplish the task. They recommended the work be done in the driest possible conditions, that is, in August. Jonathan Blake has recommended a scrap metal hauler to work with him in removing and disposing of the junk. The goal is to get the job done before school starts. It was moved, seconded and passed unanimously that the Commission spend no more than \$1,500 from its fund to complete this job. John and Peggy will bring the matter to the Selectboard's August 3rd meeting.

4. Ompompanoosuc Monitoring: River monitoring and testing is proceeding as planned. The latest test result should be available by the end of this week, and the Commission will post them on the Town listserv.

5. Lake Fairlee Dam: Jim and Peggy reported on what is known about how and why the dam rebuilding project will be delayed until 2016.

6. Brushwood Forest Trail Planning: a) **Brushwood North Trail Blazing** – Guy Wilson will join Commission members on August 21 and 28 to blaze the trail he's identified and laid out in Brushwood North. b) **Brushwood Trail Book** - Ann, John and Geoff will set up a box at the Brushwood South kiosk for a Trail Book visitors can use to describe their visit and other comments.

c) **Re-blazing Brushwood South Trails** – members decided the Brushwood trails would be color-coded for blazing as follows: Presidential Trail-Yellow; Ridgeline Trail-Red; Wpanek Trail-Green; Crawford Loop-Pink; North/South Connector Trail-White; North Brushwood Trail-Blue; Bald Top Trail –Burnt Orange. d) **STZ Update** the text for the easement revision and the accompanying map has now been circulated to members and sent for comment to David Paganelli and Sue Morse. This should be a final version that can be sent on the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation, Michael Snyder.

e) **French Parcel ROW** – Geoff reports the Vaida/Scanlon property has not been sold and appears not be on the market for sale. He will write to Paul Gillies, reminding him of the document he was to prepare for filing in land records in both Fairlee and West Fairlee. Peggy will then follow-up with a call to him.

7. Cooperation with Friends of Fairlee Forest: Lynne Fitzhugh of Friends of Fairlee Forest has proposed two possible projects her group and the West Fairlee Conservation Commission might work on together. The first would be setting up a Brushwood/Fairlee Forest E-Bird website. The second would be participation of the two groups in a Brushwood/Fairlee Forest Awareness Festival. Thoughts were exchanged about both ideas and Peggy will talk further with Lynne.

8. Fall 2015 Education Programs: Rebecca and Peggy reported on the programs now schedule for this Fall. On October 15th in the Martha Jan Rich Theater at the Thetford Academy, Bird Diva, Bridget Butler will present a bird program. In early November, there will be a program at Westshire School on bees details to be announced soon.

9. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.