

West Fairlee Conservation Commission

Draft Minutes –Meeting of Aug 25, 2015

Attending: John Boutin, Geoffrey Gardner, Ann Stephens, Jim Totin, Peggy Willey, Cleo Kearns, Rebecca Wurdak. Guy Wilson, Dave Paganelli

The meeting began at 7:09 PM.

Secretary's report: minutes: It was moved, seconded and passed unanimously to approve as the minutes of the Commission's meeting of July 28, 2015.

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

New Business:

1. **Report from our Forester, Dave Paganelli,** on findings in Brushwood North:
 - Erosion on ATV trails , and discussion on measures to take;
 - Our measures in regard to log poaching seem to be effective
 - David Slayton will be starting to log again near Knobloch Road in Brushwood North once the contract extension is signed with the Selectboard
 - State of white pines: needlecast, and fungus at the base of trees. While they look good due to lots of rain this summer, the rain has also caused the fungus to thrive, and we may see the damage next year, and we may need to treat this by cutting sometime in the next 5 years.
 - Boundary marking – some refreshing of flagging or painting in some areas: we need to schedule this for late October when the leaves are off the trees.
 - Logging Landings: we need to hire someone to mow them in 2016
 - Conte project: Dave handed us a draft report of the Conte Wildlife refuge Plan. We will review this and contact them if it looks like their goals could be a good fit with ours.

2. **Junk Removal From the Ompompanoosuc in the Vicinity of the School:** John Boutin reported that this was completed. 4 tons of vehicle carcasses and other junk was removed with the help of the Blakes, and John, Peggy and Ann performed surface cleanup, filling John's truck up over the top with full trash bags and planted 5 trees to define the boundary of the field edge. The costs came in 8.8% over budget. It was moved, seconded and passed unanimously to revise the \$1500 previously approved to \$1632.00 from the Conservation Commission Fund to cover the actual costs.

3. **Ompompanoosuc Monitoring:** River monitoring and testing is proceeding as planned. There is one more sampling left to be taken, and there will be a presentation of the results to be scheduled sometime this Fall.

4. **Brushwood North Trail Blazing:** – This had to be canceled on July 21 because of forecast for lightning. Guy Wilson will join Commission members on August 28 to blaze the trail he's identified and laid out in Brushwood North.

5. **Cooperation with Friends of Fairlee Forest** – Fairlee is planning a Forest Festival on the weekend of the 4th of July next year, and would like participation from WFCC in terms of a booth, poster, and any other ideas we can develop to encourage education and "Fun in the Forest."

6. **Forest Legacy Easement Monitoring :** Kate Sudhoff has scheduled a site Visit for Aug 26 (Wednesday). Ann Stephens will accompany her and answer any questions.

7. Loss of one WFCC member: Geoff Gardner will be moving out of the town of West Fairlee to a new home in Bradford. In this, his last meeting with us, he mentioned that the town will need a new Town Plan in 2017, and our group will need to address the conservation section, especially conservation of Agricultural land. He will email the TRORC map of slop, Ag soils & Deer Yards, as well as a link to the Agency of Natural Resources map, and also send these to the town office. The commission thanked him for his excellent work on the Conservation Commission, and hopes that he will help us out from time to time as an interested resident of the wider area.

8. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM