

CRAFTSBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Approved Minutes

July 27, 2015

Present: Joe Houston, Leah Szafranski, Elinor Osborn, Diane Morgan, Farley Brown

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Joe Houston at 7:08 p.m. The minutes from the June 22 meeting were accepted.

Upcoming Knotweed Workshop: Details were explained by Leah: Elizabeth Spinney of Forest and Parks has developed an outline for her and Rose Paul's presentation. Elizabeth asked for someone from the Conservation Commission to give a quick history of the site explaining the dam and the movement of the knotweed. **Farley** will give a brief explanation of the Black River Project. **Diane** will give Farley a copy of the article of the history of the Mill Village dam from the Hosmer Pond Watershed Initiative Newsletter. **Leah** will suggest to Rose and Elizabeth that they come early to scout the sites. Sam Perron's session will begin at 11:00, but he will be attending the entire workshop. A black or dark tarp will be needed for the cut material and **Joe** suggested that the Conservation Commission purchase one; he will get one this week. The press release has been submitted. It will be announced on Front Porch Forum for the second time. **Diane** will make and post notices around town.

Black River Clean-Up:

September 12 has been selected as the date for this project. Fish and Wildlife Dept. is being asked to pay for the dumpster.

Town Plan: Farley announced that Leah and Diane did the final edits on the Natural Heritage section which has been submitted to the Planning Commission by Farley. We reviewed some final changes including our revised Goal and Actions.

Rutland Solar Siting Resolution:

Joe explained that he met with the Chairs of the Energy Committee and the Planning Commission at the suggestion of Steve Wright to decide whether these three groups should encourage our SelectBoard to act on a request from Rutland to sign its Resolution. The purpose of the Resolution is to instruct the Vermont Legislature to "develop amendments to the statutes that concern the siting and approval of renewable energy projects and to the procedures of the PSB in order to insure that Vermont municipalities have a more meaningful role in the CPG process and to require compliance with appropriately-developed municipal siting standards."

Thus far, towns with specific siting guidelines have not been considered in the Sec. 248 process. Craftsbury does not currently have siting standards and approval of this resolution by Craftsbury is

not about creating guidelines. It would be to support the process by which towns would be given more power in Sec. 248 hearings in the Public Service Board Certificate of Public Good Process.. Over 35 towns have signed on to this resolution including several in our area; a couple of towns have written their own resolution to incorporate their own name, instead of Rutland. Our next step would be to discuss this further at our next meeting and take a vote as to whether we will ask our Select Board to sign on to the Rutland Resolution, or draft our own resolution, then bring our proposal to a Select Board meeting.

Other Business:

Invasives Mapping—Elizabeth Spinney of Forests and Parks contacted Jared Nunery, Orleans County Forester, to see whether he would want to schedule a Mapping for Invasives workshop. Jared and Farley decided to use Sterling College woods. Farley asked whether the Conservation Commission would co-sponsor this event on October 17. All agreed that this coordination makes sense.

Presentation on Owls—Diane attended Elinor Osborn's slide talk in Plainfield on owls and praised it highly. Elinor said she would be willing to do the same presentation this coming winter in Craftsbury sponsored by the Conservation Commission.

Our next meeting is scheduled for September 28. (No meeting in August.) We will do any coordination necessary for the River Clean-up Event via email and phone calls.

This meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Submitted by: Diane Morgan