

Craftsbury Conservation Commission meeting August 26 2019 Craftsbury Town Hall 7:00 pm

Present: Steve Moffat, Susie Houston, Carol Maroni, Diane Morgan, Heidi Rich, Farley Brown, Steve Wright, John Brodhead, Elinor Osborn

7:05 Minutes approved

Discussion:

Treasure Report: \$ from antiques and uniques not yet received

Select Board Signage Update:

Steve M. forwarded information from Conservation Commission , Susie presented it to the Select Board, Select Board approved the proposed signage as presented by Susie.

Knotweed Project Update from Elinor:

Mike Russell, who lives in Craftsbury, talked to Elinor. He's eager to help with phase III of the project. He is willing to help with anything.

Pete Emerson, F&W fish biologist who signed off on our Knotweed Project, encouraged us to keep asking for F&W money as sometimes money shows up.

There has been no new discussion of aesthetics from the public. Steve said he would field any questions about aesthetics if they come up.

Elinor asked us all to check the edges of the plastic at the demonstration project site and pull any knotweed that is emerging.

Diane Morgan floated the idea of planting the road edges. Elinor thinks the snowplow will rip them up.

Purple Flowering Raspberry may shade out knotweed as per Elinor's experience on her property.

Signage for Disposal of Invasives at Gravel Pit

The owners of the gravel pit are Kurtis Mellet and Margo Day.

There is concern of not spreading invasive when gravel is taken from pit for fill.

Day and Mellet want us (CCC) to come to them to tell them what we need.

Is it just dumping that we are asking for or digging and burying?

Steve will have a conversation with Kurtis before they come to the next Conservation Commission meeting.

Should there be a plan before they come to the CCC meeting?

Elinor asked if the owners of the landfill thought of liability?

Susie says "Yes."

Town is leasing the gravel pit property so insurance covers liability..?

Elinor looked into other towns' disposal sites but couldn't find anything.

Diane suggested looking at what NH is doing as they are ahead of us with invasive plant control.

Steve suggested we have the owners of the gravel pit come to the next CCC meeting even if we don't have a plan.

Suggestions for disposal solutions should be looked into by...? (the Select Board or the CCC?)

Burying and burning are the two typical options. Also a dumpster could be located at a public spot re: recycle center. Invasives would need to be covered so they could dry out (for burning?)

Burning invasive in a bunker was a suggestion, as burning in a parking lot was not deemed a good idea.

If invasive are being ditched, can the material removed be redeposited onto landowners property as a measure to lessen the chance of spreading the invasive plants?

Conservation Fund Policy Discussion:

Diane asked us to comment on the Conservation Fund draft document and bring up any red flags we saw.

The document follows statute.

There is little wiggle room other than the land protection statute.

It is up to to the Board to look at it and come up with questions.

The document has language from other towns' conservation fund documents and is fairly standard.

Document is a guidance document until it needs to be amended and Select Board can amend or Conservation Commission can amend.

Diane suggests Commission submits as the approved document to Select Board.

Would Select board present to a lawyer? No suggestion that this would need to happen, but the board may want to submit to a lawyer.

Check with other towns to see if they had a lawyer look at it.

Farley motioned that the Conservation Commission adopts the Craftsbury Conservation Fund Guidance Document as presented to the Conservation Commission on August 26, 2019 and give it to the Select Board for approval.

This motion was seconded by Elinor.

The process to send to the select board : Diane will put a hard copy in the mailboxes of the select board members.

Cover letter will be put together by Diane and Carol and needs to be signed by Steve M.

Future Agenda Items:

Jared Nunnery would like to talk with the conservation commission. He's interested in doing an inventory of ash trees on two rights of way. Steve M. Is thinking we could have Jarred and Sterling students present at the next meeting. Sterling students would present findings of Farley's ecology class on soil invertebrates found under Knotweed (a 10 minuet presentation). Also, the gravel pit folks can present. Commission decided Kurtis Mallet and Jarred Nunnery will be invited to next commission meeting. Sterling students at a later date?

'Honoring the Ash' event — Farley will send a copy to Carol.

Pollinator Garden update. Susie asked about a map of plantings.

Ask Margaret Fowle when she might be available to do a public presentation on Chimney Swifts. We will try to book a date in early spring. Heidi will contact Margaret. Sterling is a good venue for this.

How to get more money in the Conservation Fund will be on the agenda for a future meeting.

Steve W. and Heid will mark invasive on Hatch Brook Road.

Adjourned at 8:00.