

DRAFT CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
December 23, 2019
Craftsbury Town Hall

PRESENT: Stephen Moffatt, Diane Morgan, Elinor Osborn, Heidi Rich, Steve Wright, June Cook

ABSENT: John Brodhead, Farley Brown, Susie Houston, Carol Maroni

MINUTES: Minutes of 10-28-2019 approved.

SELECT BOARD UPDATE: The location of the Fund Guidelines document, approved by select board, appears to be uncertain. Stephen indicated he had not yet signed the document but will check with Town Clerk and sign. Official copy to be kept in Town Clerk's office; copy to be kept in Commission files.

Recommendations for signage on Wild Branch River Crossings have been made to the Select Board. Stephen will check with board as to progress.

ANNUAL REPORT: June submitted draft of 2019 Annual Report for review and edit. She will check on deadline for submission.

CRAFTSBURY CONSERVATION FUNDRAISING: Discussion ensued on fundraising for the Craftsbury Conservation Fund and need to grow the Fund into a serious undertaking. Diane indicated the next step is to create one-page flyer or folded brochure summarizing the Fund's purpose and have available at Town Meeting and Town Clerk's office.

Diane motioned to request from the town the amount of \$10,000 from the Good Neighbor Fund for the Craftsbury Conservation Fund. The request is a one-time request. June seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Request for article to be placed on annual warning must be made to select board.

Diane, Steve Wright, and Elinor will create the flyer and/or brochure for Town Meeting and Town Clerk's office.

Discussion of disseminating information about the Fund included having information at town meeting on table and chairs. The request would be an initial start in creating a Fund that is viable and a serious endeavor to have money available in future for projects that meet criteria as outlined in Fund Guidance document and approved by select board. Money continues to build in the Fund each year until a project is recommended and approved by select board.

Chimney Swifts: Heidi reported Carol Fairbank of WonderArts is willing to donate \$200 for building of Chimney Swift Tower at Community Greenspace.

Presentation on Chimney Swifts to be given by Margaret Fowle on April 16, 2020, in the Sterling College 1953 Room at 7:00 p.m.

GOALS – 2020: Goals to be discussed at January meeting: (1) Discuss procedures for undertaking projects, ranking and designating project leader; (2) Little Hosmer – protection from Milfoil; (3) Craftsbury Conservation Fund; (4) Emerald Ash Borer survey; (5) Chimney Swifts; (6) Red lights on Lowell wind towers and Public Service Board stipulations; (7) Japanese Knotweed Demonstration Project

Discussion on 2020 goals to be discussed at January meeting included a review of commission's involvement in Little Hosmer to date. Diane reported on the commission's survey two years ago to determine if a grant for a greeter at the launch area should be pursued. The survey results did not show any particular times that the lake's usage was great enough to warrant a part-time greeter. Commission will continue to raise community awareness of danger on milfoil infestation; hopefully, volunteers will step forward to help monitor the lake for milfoil.

Stephen reported the Select Board is interested in pursuing survey of ash trees on public rights of way.

OTHER BUSINESS: None

The next meeting of the commission will be held on Monday, January 27, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall.

Submitted by June Pichel Cook, Secretary