

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
February 24, 2020
Craftsbury Town Hall

PRESENT: Stephen Moffatt, Diane Morgan, Susie Houston, Elinor Osborn, Farley Brown, John Brodhead, June Cook

ABSENT: Carol Maroni

MINUTES: Minutes of January 27, 2020, approved.

TOWN MEETING: Set-up must be along sides and close to front of gym as primary election will take place at back of gym. Farley will bring table; Diane, tablecloth and brochures on Craftsbury Conservation Fund; Elinor, Knotweed. Discussion centered on best practice to disseminate information on Craftsbury Conservation Fund. Brochure will be placed on every other chair and on the table. Susie reported a new sound system has been installed in the gym.

Stephen reported on meeting with select board. Entities seeking money from Good Neighbor Fund agreed requests would be reduced by 30 percent. Motion made to reduce amount requested in Article 17 from \$10,000 to \$7,000. Passed unanimously. Stephen will speak to the Article which will be amended at town meeting. Susie's negotiating the compromise was acknowledged and appreciated.

Points to consider for support of Craftsbury Conservation Fund: (1) is extension of Town Plan, (2) 56 towns in State have such a fund, (3) use money as leverage to seek other funds, i.e., grants, (4) use in partnership with Vermont Land Trust or other land trusts, (5) use to protect a variety of parcels, i.e., scenic, wildlife corridors, farmland, forests, wetlands (6) use to purchase additional properties that expand town forest.

DISPOSAL OF INVASIVES: Elinor reported on conversation with Scott Sampson at Casella relative to disposal of invasives. Whether the charge could be by the bag or not will be further pursued. Have information at dump/recycle center about disposing of invasives and/or surveying community to assess interest are avenues to pursue. Commission could sponsor a meeting to inform community on how to dispose of invasives.

LETTER TO PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD: The well-written letter by Carol to the Public Service Board regarding red lights on the Kingdom Community Wind industrial wind project on the Lowell Mountains was tabled until the March meeting. Discussion centered on the final paragraph and clarification and on Condition 34 wording which indicates pursuing an "alternate solution" if radar system was not feasible.

NEW MEMBER: The commission is seeking another member to serve on the commission. Interested parties should contact Steve or Susie.

OTHER BUSINESS: Diane reported that Kim Jenson from the State would be available to train volunteers in monitoring Little Hosmer for presence of milfoil. The commission would host the session. Tentative date, July 25; first part, 10-12:30 – indoors; second part, paddling on Little Hosmer or Big Hosmer. Holding session at Craftsbury Outdoor Center for indoor session or at Sterling College was suggested. The State is concerned with bodies of water on which motorboats are used.

Submitted by June Pichel Cook, Secretary