

Draft Conservation Commission Minutes

May 25, 2020

ZOOM Meeting

Present: Stephen Moffatt, Diane Morgan, Farley Brown, John Boradhead, Carol Maroni, Elinor Osborn, Heidi Rich, Susie Houston

Election of Officers:

Stephen Moffat was elected as Chair. Motion made by Carol Maroni, seconded by Farley Brown. All in favor.

Diane Morgan was elected as Treasurer. Motion made by Farley Brown, seconded by John Brodhead. All in favor.

June Cook was elected as Secretary. Motion made by Carol Maroni, seconded by Diane Morgan. All in favor.

Approval of April 27 minutes: No official business was conducted as the meeting was not warned.

Carol motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Elinor. All in favor.

Knotweed Update: Stephen purchased about 20 small plants of arrowwood, redstemmed dogwood and winterberry to plant on the demonstration site. The cost of these plants was about \$100.00. Stephen planted these shrubs in mid-May. About \$100.00 remains to purchase more plants for the site if needed. Elinor suggested planting wildflowers next to the road as the plow would interfere with any shrubs too close to the edge of the demonstration site.

Tiny Grant Update: No updates available yet. Information on grant recipients should be available by the end of May. Diane said Tiny Grant date was extended. A second phase of the project is to financially support landowners for disposal of invasives.

Discussion of how to spend the money if the CCC gets awarded the grant.

Bruce Urie volunteered to haul collected invasives to Coventry.

Elinor commented that burning doesn't work as plants are too wet.

Carol asked about what we'd do if the CCC does not get the \$300.00 Tiny Grant. Where would the money come from to dispose of the invasives at the Coventry landfill.

Farley suggested the Friends of Craftsbury VT Community Foundation as a possible funding source.

Susie pointed out that with so much financial need right now, due to COVID-19, the timing might not be right to ask for funding for the disposal of invasives, but also added that \$300.00 is a conservative ask.

Farley mentioned that some folks in Underhill are having some success suppressing knotweed using hardware cloth. One might need to initiate this method early in the growing season to be effective. There was mention of possibly adding this type of suppression method to the demonstration site.

Steve suggested we wait to hear what comes of the Tiny Grant application and go make a plan from there.

Steve Wright Memorial:

It was suggested to install an Aldo Leopold bench on the Common near the Historical Society building. Farley will talk to Harry about the process to get a bench with plaque erected.

The Village Improvement Society was mentioned as a possible source of funding. This can be discussed at the next meeting.

New Members: As a member of the Select Board, Susie will contact Ashely Nunery.

Letter to Green Mountain Power:

Steve sent the letter written to Green Mountain Power, in response to the lighting on the industrial wind towers, to the manager of Kingdom Community Wind and the Public Utilities Commission.

Changing the Meeting Date of the CCC: Carol motioned that we change the CCC monthly meeting date from the 4th Monday to the 3rd Monday of each month. Farley seconded.

All in favor. June 15, 2020 will be the beginning of the Commission meeting on the 3rd Monday of the month.

Submitted by Heidi Rich taking minutes in June Cook's absence.