

APPROVED CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
July 20, 2020
ZOOM MEETING

PRESENT: Stephen Moffatt, Chair; Diane Morgan, Treasurer; June Cook, Secretary; Ashley Nunery, Carol Maroni, Elinor Osborn

ABSENT: John Brodhead, Farley Brown, Susie Houston (Select Board), Heidi Rich

MINUTES: Minutes of June 15, 2020 approved.

WELCOME: Ashley was officially welcomed as newly appointed member of Commission by Select Board.

WRIGHT MEMORIAL BENCH: Discussion continued on placement for a memorial bench, honoring Steve Wright. He had been involved in the library, historical society, and Sterling College; therefore, three locations have been discussed: library, historical society, Common.

Stephen reported on his investigation into the Craftsbury Public Library as a bench site. Since the library will be under renovations, the feeling was it is too chaotic at this time to find an appropriate location on the library grounds. Donations to the library and historical society have been made in Steve Wright's memory, therefore, location at the historical society may be as appropriate.

The Babcock House may be a site for placement of the bench. Diane will follow up with Farley and Susie.

BENCH PLAQUE WORDING: Diane volunteered to help Farley with finding a quote for the plaque to be placed on the Aldo Leopold memorial bench. A quote sent by Farley, via e-mail, was deemed too lengthy and cost prohibitive.

Decision on plaque and bench location will be on next month's agenda.

KNOTWEED/INVASIVES DISPOSAL: Elinor reported that she and Heidi have put new plastic at the demonstration site and cut around the new plantings. Seven people responded to her survey regarding disposal of invasives. Surveys were placed at the General Store and Recycle Center, as well as, advertised on Front Porch Forum. Responses ranged from people having 3 or 4 few bags of invasives to as many as 60 bags. Willingness to pay for hauling bagged invasives to landfill was positive. Cost of disposal by Casella was \$150/truckload.

The Tiny Grant seeking funds to pay for disposal was unsuccessful, and indications are the select board would not be willing to do so under current budget constraints. Discussion centered on how to schedule a potential date, how to ensure funds would be available for disposal, how best to ensure commitment by landowners, and how

to ensure invasives would be bagged acceptably for the landfill. Carol pointed out that bagged knotweed would be much lighter than Bishop's Weed because the latter would have roots and soil attached. Unknowns are how many bags could be loaded per pick-up and would the cost be \$150 per load if there were more than one loaded pick-up.

Suggested: \$2/bag, invasives double bagged in plastic of certain mil or higher, 50 percent deposit required to ensure commitment. Questions raised on the "what-ifs." Possible solutions: People sign up and pay ahead of time for a reserved spot. Wait for the next Tiny Grant cycle and have funds in place.

Elinor will continue research with Casella as to exact cost of \$150 and write up proposal to present to select board. The middle of September is still a potential date for disposal of invasives at landfill.

The next meeting was scheduled for August 17, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by June Pichel Cook, Secretary