

APPROVED CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
June 15, 2020
ZOOM MEETING

PRESENT: Stephen Moffatt, Chair; Carol Maroni; Diane Morgan, Treasurer; Elinor Osborn; Susie Houston, Sel. Bd. Liaison; Heidi Rich; John Brodhead; Farley Brown; Ashley Nunery; June Cook, Secretary

MINUTES: May 25, 2020 Minutes approved. Ashley Lidman was welcomed as a new member to the Commission.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Farley and Diane have been researching potential locations for a Steven Wright Memorial bench. They have had conversations with Harry Miller, president of Village Improvement Society. Suggested locations are the Common, Historical Society, Craftsbury Public Library. Select Board would make decision regarding the Common.

Last Fall, Jared Nunery had served as consultant on building several Aldo Leopold benches with Craftsbury Academy students. One bench may be available; Susie will pursue availability of any benches built by CA students. The installation could be done with the library as co-host with a program (readings, etc.). A plaque on the bench with a Leopold quote was suggested. Steve Wright had had deep connections with education and historical society, in addition to his environmental activism and relationships. He was president of Sterling College and also Commissioner of Fish & Wildlife. He was avid baseball fan and played, as well as, avid fisherman.

He had a connection with the historical society and was a big part of an early baseball team on the Common. Stephen will pursue library location; Farley will continue conversation with Historical Society and library. The library location may garner the most public presence.

KNOTWEED DISPOSAL: The Commission was not awarded a small grant for knotweed disposal. Stephen reported watering and fertilizing plantings on the demonstration site. Some knotweed was pulled by Stephen, his sons, Elinor, and Heidi. He noted the Spring plantings looked okay. Pulling and bagging knotweed for disposal was discussed as preferable to smothering. Burning was not considered a good option. Susie reported Select Board felt disposing in-house would cost as much as taking to the landfill. A survey seeking information about community interest in disposing of knotweed was not taken at town meeting.

Elinor suggested placing questionnaires at the stores (people can't go into stores because of Covid-19) or putting question on Front Porch Forum. The need is to assess community's interest in disposal of the knotweed. The question is would they participate and be willing to pay a nominal fee. A pick-up day in the Fall would be designated; it could be taken to the landfill. Elinor reported the cost was \$150, a half-price charge for a truckload.

Elinor will pursue questionnaire/survey seeking information on community interest with a potential date for pick-up in the middle of September. Specific information on bagging, etc. needs to be disseminated.

GREENSPACE: Carol indicated there is no further work planned. The site is used as an educational site. The last step is installing plaques for plant identification. Carol will follow up with Carol Fairbank from Wonder & Wisdom. The Greenspace is a potential site for a Chimney Swift Tower to be built.

The meeting at Sterling College on Chimney Swifts and Chimney Swift Tower building was canceled due to Covid-19 pandemic. Revisiting tower building project is a potential. Jim Moffatt has offered to build a tower if Commission gives direction on materials needed and tower design; next summer is a target.

FACEBOOK: Farley reported the Facebook page needs an administrator. It was started during the Lowell Wind Tower controversy almost 8 years ago and has not been updated. Farley will dismantle Facebook page.

LITTLE HOSMER – MILFOIL: Diane discussed the workshop planned with the State to be held in Craftsbury. The workshop was designed to teach people how to identify and keeping milfoil out of Little Hosmer. It was suggested to be done at the Craftsbury Outdoor Center as it had a large space to accommodate people. The workshop was scheduled for July 25. The session would include both indoor and outdoor activity: meeting indoors at 10:00 a.m. and paddling at noon. Need pre-registration as gatherings are limited to 25 people. The State canceled the workshop; Diane will keep Commission updated.

MEETINGS: Conservation Commission meetings have been changed to the 3rd Monday of each month. Stephen will pursue having the calendar changed. Discussion on holding July meeting face-to-face or via ZOOM did not result in a final decision. Stephen indicated either ZOOM or Face-to-Face was acceptable, however, everyone had to be comfortable if meeting in person.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 20 at 7:00 p.m. Location to be announced.

Submitted by June Pichel Cook, Secretary