

DRAFT CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
September 21, 2020
ZOOM MEETING, 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Stephen Moffatt, Chair; Diane Morgan, Treasurer; June Cook, Secretary; Susie Houston, Select Board Liaison; Farley Brown, Carol Maroni, Ashley Nunery, Elinor Osborn

ABSENT: John Brodhead, Heidi Rich

MINUTES: No action taken. Because of ZOOM malfunctioning, meeting was curtailed to reporting information in respect of the open meeting laws.

INVASIVE DISPOSAL FUTURE: Discussion on invasive disposal to be placed on next month agenda. Differences of opinion exist from experts and commission members as to proper disposal of invasives.

INVASIVE POLICY DEVELOPMENT: Commission could set out guidelines, such as, advising landowners to follow policies of the Nature Conservancy. Information from commission would be placed on town website or town's FACEBOOK.

TOWN WEBSITE UPDATE: Commission meetings are on town's calendar.

MEMORIAL BENCH UPDATE: Stephen reported that Harry Miller was amenable to building the Aldo Leopold bench to be placed on the southern end of the Common in memory of Stephen Wright. Stephen will take care of securing lumber for the bench. Diane reported on investigating companies that create plaques. Primary concern is having material that can withstand weather. Approximate cost is \$43.30. Plaque made of plastic material appears most durable. Spring is goal to have bench built, plaque secured, commitment by select board as to placement on the Common.

OTHER BUSINESS: Stephen noted the 4H Club had posted on Front Porch Forum that branches are being closed and the organization is seeking to donate money to a charitable organization. As Chair, he will reach out to the 4H Club on considering the Craftsbury Conservation Fund as a possible donee.

Farley reported on ACT 171 and State requiring that towns map blocks of wildlife habitat and connectivity corridors to be included in town plan. State has mapping tools to assist towns in doing so. Large blocks of wildlife habitats exist in Craftsbury as well as wildlife corridors to surrounding areas. She will bring to next meeting.

Susie reported on Academy Woodlot and incursion of wall lettuce (*Mycelis Muralis*). Commission has weed wrenches available for public to use to pull buckthorn and/or other invasives. Procedure for borrowing wrenches is on website. Buckthorn is a growing concern and control methods vary from pulling to use of herbicides.

June reported on Highland Center for the Arts exhibit of species facing extinction and interactive viewing of paintings which depict the critical or vulnerable species in their natural habitat. Loss of habitat, human incursion, development, pesticides and herbicides, deforestation, pollution, and climate change cited.

Stephen reported he had sent letter to Green Mountain Power earlier in the year regarding Aircraft Detection Lighting System status report. Whether or not GMP had issued a May status report of the detection system could not be determined. Susie will check with Select Board. Stephen was named as the designee to receive reports from GMP and indicated he would check his mail slot at Town Clerk's office.

The commission will hold its next meeting on October 19, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM.

Submitted by June Pichel Cook, Secretary