Orford Conservation Commission Minutes, February 21, 2013

Members present: Bry Beeson, Chair, Harry Pease, Vice Chair, Craig Putnam, Secretary, Tom Bubolz, Emily Bryant, Carl Schmidt, Carl Cassel, Fran Plaisted (Alternate), Kathy Baker, Alternate; Visitor: Anne Green

The meeting commenced at 7:00 PM. Minutes from the December 20, 2012 meeting were reviewed; Harry made a motion, which Tom seconded, to approve the minutes; approval was unanimous.

Minutes from the January 17, 2013 public presentation on the National Flood Insurance Program at which a quorum of OCC members were present, were reviewed; Tom made a motion to accept the minutes, Emily seconded the motion, and all approved.

Harry led a discussion reviewing his draft of bylaws for the Commssion in which he noted the key changes made. Carl Cassel made a motion that we accept the by-laws as amended February 21, 2013. The motion was seconded by Tom, and approved unanimously.

Carl Schmidt brought to our attention the process of relicensing of the Wilder Dam (and others along the Connecticut) that has begun and will be underway from now through 2018. A key item of interest to the OCC in this process is the likelihood that mitigation funds will almost surely be made available for conservation work along the river to address impact issues of the dam. Some mitigation funds from the previous round of licensing are still available that could potentially be used to support conservation of land along the river in Orford.

Bry reported on his personal success in procuring water test results from his private well supporting two residences. He is well pleased with the results of the work of Eastern Analytical Labs in Keene, and would be happy to talk with anyone wanting to know more.

Anne Green made a request that the OCC help promote a bird walk in May by co-sponsoring and sharing half of the $100 fee of the bird walk guide, Bill Shepherd, with the Orford Social Library. The walk will take place at 7:00 AM on a Saturday in May, to be announced on the Orford ListServ. Emily moved that the OCC co-sponsor the birdwalk in May with the Orford Social Library; Harry seconded, and all approved.

Emily reported on the upcoming annual OCC photo contest. She has put out boxes in the libraries, and has distributed posters. The photos will be displayed as usual at Town Meeting on 3/12/13 on the OCC table.

Carl Schmidt reminded us of the 250th celebration of the first settlement in Orford, coming up in 2015. Clubs and organizations are being encouraged to plan their involvement.

Bry reminded us that “election time” for OCC officers is coming up, and advocated for “no surprises.” Accordingly, Craig advised members that he will be stepping down as a member, willing to serve as an alternate, due to impending competing responsibilities. There was discussion about initiating a nominating process, but confidence in our ability to “work it out” with a willingness to share the duties, prevailed.

Tom moved to adjourn, Harry seconded, and all approved. The meeting closed at 8:30.

Craig Putnam, Secretary