Orford Conservation Commission

 Minutes of August 11, 2015 Fund Raising Meeting

Commissioners Present: Harry Pease and Carl Schmidt; Alternates Present: Fran Plaisted, Emily Bryant and Craig Putnam; Guests: John Roe and Jeanie McIntyre from Upper Valley Land Trust

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm.

Harry requested that Fran Plaisted, Craig Putnam and Emily Bryant serve as Commissioners tonight for the three vacant/open positions.

We reviewed the overall budget for the Mason Pond Project and topics to be discussed at the Public Hearing on the project on August 20, 2015. UVLT again reiterated that the land will continue to remain in current use and they will continue to pay taxes on the Mason Pond property so there will be no change in the taxes received by the Town.

We discussed an overall plan for fundraising, including sending a letter with an information sheet to all Orford property owners as well as others who may have an interest in helping conserve this land. It was agreed that Harry would obtain the Grand List from the Tax Collector to use as the basis for names and addresses for the fund raising letter. The goal is to send the fund raising letters out in the last week of September.

We discussed how to preserve the old barn and shed built by Billy Brown. The Conservation Commission will take the lead and may seek help from the Orford Historical Society or other members of the community who want to preserve the barns and are willing to spend some time/ money doing some minor repairs to extend their existence.

We discussed the Public Hearing regarding the Conservation Commission’s intention to contribute $50,000 from the Orford Conservation Fund to the Mason Pond Project. The Hearing will take place on August 20, 2015 at 7:00 pm in the Niles Room at the Orford Town Offices. Harry will preside at the Hearing. He will explain the reason for the Hearing, describe the project, discuss the project budget, invite comments and questions from the public and explain next steps in the process. The next big milestone is getting a decision from LCHIP regarding our grant request for $125,000. The decision is expected by Thanksgiving.

Fran agreed to secure a post office box in Orford for project contributions to be mailed to, and with the assistance of UVLT, we will establish a bank account for the Orford Mason Pond Project.

Fran made a motion and Carl seconded the motion to adjourn which was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Plaisted