Orford Conservation Commission

 Draft Minutes of September 17, 2015 Meeting

Commissioners Present: Harry Pease, Carl Schmidt, Carl Cassel, Tom Bubolz and Jeff MacQueen; Alternates Present: Fran Plaisted, Emily Bryant and Craig Putnam; Guest: Jeanie McIntyre from Upper Valley Land Trust

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Harry requested that Craig Putnam and Emily Bryant serve as Commissioners tonight for the two vacant positions.

Minutes from the August 11, 2015 Fundraising Meeting: Carl Schmidt made a motion to approve, Tom seconded and the motion carried.

Minutes from the August 20, 2015 Meeting: Carl Schmidt made a motion to approve, Tom seconded and the motion carried.

Minutes from the Public Hearing on August 20, 2015: Carl Schmidt recommended that we add the statement made by Ann Green that the proposed conservation of the Bischoff property is consistent with the Orford Master Plan. Tom made a motion to approve the minutes with Carl’s amendment, Jeff seconded and the motion carried.

Old Business:

Mason Pond Project Fund Raising: Jeanie McIntyre brought the updated Cover Letter, Fact Sheet, and Buck Slips for the fund raising campaign based on our previous input. Commissioners suggested some final edits before getting them printed. Jeanie will make the final changes and have the documents printed at Gnomon Printing. The goal is to mail the fund raising materials to all Orford property owners by the end of September. Harry obtained a list of current property owners and their addresses from the Tax Collector. We will meet on Wednesday, September 23 to go over the list to eliminate duplications and make corrections prior to printing address labels. UVLT will stuff and mail the envelopes. Carl Schmidt recommended that we create an information packet for the personal contacts and that two people visit potential donors instead of just one.

Conservation Fund and Budget: Carl Cassel will meet with Katie Wright the new Town Treasurer to explain how the land use change taxes are to be handled and deposited into the Conservation Fund. Katie was not advised of this process by the outgoing Treasurer.

New Business:

Mason Pond Project LCHIP Site Visit October 1, 2015: Four people representing LCHIP are scheduled to visit the Bischoff property on October 1, 2015 as part of their grant review process. Property owner David Bischoff, UVLT Vice President John Roe, and several Orford Commissioners plan to meet with the LCHIP Team.

Kiosk at Orford Conservation Land: Jeff reported that the kiosk is done and we need to get Brad McCormack paid. Jeff will forward the invoice to Harry who will approve it and send it to the Treasurer. There was a discussion of what information should be at the kiosk. Jeff will ask Andy Boyce to make a map of the property. It was suggested that we have a description of what is being done at the property and maybe a list of plants and birds at the site. Harry and Jeff will work on that.

Carl Schmidt reminded us of the “Exploring Quinttown’s Secrets” program on October 11 starting at 1:00 at the Orford United Congregational Church co-sponsored by the Historical Society and the conservation Commission. Carl also reported that he had obtained a copy of a Senior Thesis paper about Quinttown from the 1930s.

Orford Conservation Land: The Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Connecticut River Watershed Council will make a site visit to the Orford Conservation Land on September 18 to review the results of the invasive species removal. There seem to be more invasive plants that need to be removed.

Tom made a motion to adjourn, Carl Cassel seconded and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Plaisted