Orford Conservation Commission

Minutes of Meeting on November 17, 2016

Commissioners Present: Harry Pease, Carl Schmidt, Tom Bubolz, Craig Putnam, Carl Cassel and Jeff MacQueen; Alternates Present: Emily Bryant and Fran Plaisted; Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission Representative: Amber Boland

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

Harry requested that Emily serve as a full commissioner for the meeting for our vacant position.

Approve Minutes of October Meeting: Carl Schmidt recommended minor changes to the draft October minutes to clarify the section on the Fisher riverbank stabilization permit application. Carl Schmidt made a motion to approve the October minutes as amended, Tom seconded and the motion carried.

Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) Update: We reviewed Chapter 4 on Climate Change and provided feedback to Amber. We spent quite a bit of time discussing how to strike a balance between the science necessary to explain climate change and its impact on our natural resources and making it relevant to Orford and readable. We made a number of recommendations for revisions. We reviewed the maps in the June 2011 NRI and agreed to have Amber start working on any needed revisions. Emily recommended that we add tree farms to the map as it relates to the Forest Resources Chapter and we will consider this option. Harry reported that we received the October invoice from UVLSRPC for Amber’s work on the NRI Update in the amount of $302.50. Fran made a motion that we approve payment of the invoice out of the Conservation Fund, Tom seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Operating Budget and Conservation Fund: We have spent $1,274.15 to date of our $1,970 operating budget. We have one unpaid invoice for $20 pending and anticipate receiving an invoice from the NH Association of Conservation Commissions for annual dues of about $275. This would increase our expenses to about $1,500 for the year. The current balance in the Conservation Fund is about $140,600.

New Conservation Commission Members: We have one full commissioner vacancy and can add as many additional alternates as we want. Ted Cooley is interested in joining the Commission and is willing to be a full commissioner. Diane Gildersleeve is interested in being an alternate. Paul Goundrey had expressed an interest in joining the Commission some time back, but the timing was not right then because of other commitments. Craig Putnam will follow-up with Paul before we make recommendations to the Selectboard for appointments to the Commission.

Fisher Riverbank Permit Application: Carl Schmidt noted that during the Commission’s review at its October meeting of the permitting process for this Connecticut River bank stabilization project a question was raised as to the jurisdiction of Orford’s Flood Plain Ordinance. Subsequent to the meeting, Vickie Davis at UVLSRPC determined that the proposal would need to be reviewed by the Orford Selectboard with respect to the requirements of the Ordinance. Carl informed applicant Peter Fisher, who, working with his project engineer, initiated the Flood Plain Ordinance process.

Oral History of Billy Brown and Mountain View Farm: Carl Schmidt reported that the Upper Valley Land Trust is sponsoring an oral history of Billy Brown and Mountain View Farm. Colleen Goodhue from Dartmouth, together with Jeanie McIntyre, will interview and film David Bischoff on the evening of December 7. Carl will assist and coordinate with Carl Cassel about doing the filming at the Orford Social Library.

Tom made a motion to adjourn, Craig seconded and the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectively submitted

Fran Plaisted