Orford Conservation Commission

DRAFT Minutes of Meeting on March, 23, 2017

Commissioners Present: Jeff McQueen, Harry Pease, Craig Putnam and Carl Schmidt; Alternates Present: Emily Bryant, Fran Plaisted and Ted Cooley

Also Amber Boland

Emily and Ted were asked to serve as board members for those that were not present

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

Amber Boland reviewed the climate change chapter and we reviewed the NRI. She had a review of chapters 1 thru 12. She was going to send her work to date. Take our own chapters. Focus on content and then at the end will work on visual appearance of document.

Significant changes in the wildlife action plan – perhaps we show both the 2010 and the 2015 map. Decided to just show the new map with comment that the criteria has changed recently resulting in a map that differs significantly from 2010.

Amber reviewed an interesting study that she received on 3/21/17 from Yale climate change Article in NYT and she recommended we review it.

We reviewed contract hours and we are at 45.63 and we approved 56 hours. Amber will draft a proposal on the remainder of time.

Looking at the Action Recommendations from the original NRI. Carl Schmidt initiated a discussion on why are we revising this document. It is important that we implement the Action Plans. This NRI will be utilized to revise the master plan for the planning board so we agreed it should be done. We agreed to update it periodically and we are required to have an NRI under the RSA and we are required to do this periodically. Getting the planning board to utilize the NRI in their plan.

We need to action steps to work with the planning board. Suggestion more collaboration between the Conservations Committee and the Planning board.

We need to get our recommendations/ NRI out the public more and publicize the Conservation Committee.

Amber suggested that we have a calendar in our new NRI w/ dates and suggestions of activities or natural events taking place.

Emily: updated on the conserved land via a map. Current Use Amber has all of the data for this.

Ted Cooley started working on the Outdoor Recreation. Took PDF and converted to word. Wanted to add the Mountain View Properties and is working on the language.

Carl provided feedback on the Cultural and Historical Resources: Lost functioning farms and he wants to include a section on barn preservation.

Paul -Scenic Resources – perhaps focusing on the small stuff as the larger items are covered. Pointed out that the develop on Archertown road has not impacted the scenic road status.

Jeff – talked about having stories for each chapter. Sara is working on an updated plant list and Jeff is working on bird list

Forest Resources: Harry- we can do more on why forest resource are a critical resource, forests are critical. Threats are some insects and invasive species. Harry has some sugaring records from his father/ grandfather… How the climate has impacted the surgaring. Progress and what additional things can we do to protect our forest resources.

Review recommendations with an eye towards community involvement vs. board tasks. While we have done community outreach felt we can do more.

We reviewed the invoice from Amber $1471.25. This is within the contract Ted moved we pay the invoice, Craig seconded. Motion carried, invoice will be paid.

Carl Schmidt- River Warrant. Town approved the River Warrant. Carl provided history of existing of Funds held by prior organization but not provided to individuals only to non profits. Per this Warrant, 10 towns have passed the warrant. Town of Orford formally request a mitigation fund be established for damage.

Carl provided a sample letter for the Town of Orford for the Selectboard to sign. Carl motioned that he will attend the next Selectboard Meeting to review this letter for them to review, sign and send to the Federal Energy Regulator Commission with a copy to the Trans Canada and the CT River Joint Commission. Craig seconded. Motioned carried.

Thanks to Carl Schmidt for all his work on this effort.

Harry Pease reviewed the minutes from the 3/17 meeting. Ted motioned we accept the minutes from 2/17 meeting. Carl seconded. Motion carried.

Carl Cassel’s term is up this month. He would prefer to be an alternate.

Jeff is willing to be reappointed as a commissioner

Emily’s term will be a commissioner as she was an alternate

Ted will be a commissioner

Next meeting will include elections along with the presentation from Kelley Monahan.

UVLT is going to do the annual visit the land. Walk around the property. Harry will post the date and anyone that wants to join them can.

Reminder next Thursday – hosting the annual committee local conservations at 5:30pm Center for Cartoon Studies. Jeff, Carl and Harry attending. Jeff doing a presentation and the Richman Land will become an E site (???? Not sure this is right).

Sherry Godloski – She is willing to do a presentation in Orford, NH. Trying to coordinate an event in May with the school during the day and for the town in the evening.

Carl stated Jean McIntyre- completed the oral history interview with David Bischoff and it is posted on UVLT.

During meeting Ted Cooley created an OCC Facebook page and we added this link to the page.

Carl- Mountain View, Barn Preservation- Trying to get a graduate student to help out w/ the restoration. Carl is exploring resources to see if he can find a graduate student to work on the barn. It would be a good way to start with this project.

Russell Hershall -Lyme Conservation Committee is working with Jeff MacQueen to coordinate services. UVTA is working to list all NH trails so Jeff will meet with Russell to review this. Emily will assist with a map with trails. Setting up an online trails database.

Jeff is working with the Rivendell with plant pollinators for the summer. Trying to get 100 new pollinator garden. Proposed garden at Richmond Land and possibly at town offices.

We need to finish the work removing the invasive species from Richmond Land (add to the next month’s agenda. .

 Fran Motioned we adjourn Ted seconded

Meeting ended at 9pm.

Respectively submitted

Fran Plaisted