**Orford Conservation Commission**

 **Meeting Minutes: September 20, 2018**

Present: Ted Cooley (Chair), Harry Pease, Carl Schmidt, Emily Bryant(alternate), Tom Bubolz, Craig Putnam, Paul Goundrey (alternate), Fran Plaisted (Secretary, alternate), and David Smith (Selectboard liaison)

Paul and Emily were seated for the meeting.

Meeting was called to order at 7:01

1. Water testing results: Water level was very low at Dublin Rd sampling location. The Escherichia bacteria (E coli) colony count was elevated although not as high as measured in some other years. (Target colony count 88 or lower same for swimming.) Prior 2018 test results have been good. A discussion about identifying a testing site between Creamery Rd and Dublin Rd occurred but no site is yet identified. We always need to obtain landowner permission to cross private land. Did not test Town Rd. 79 because access is steep and currently unsafe. We need an apprentice for Tom. Jeff MacQueen had offered in the past to assist Tom. Testing protocol is to arrange dates with testing lab in the spring. Test samples are collected, and a courier picks up the samples within hours of collection since the samples must be at the test lab within 6 hours of collections.
2. Jacobs Brook Subcommittee update: Subcommittee meeting held but there was not a quorum of commissioners. Emily will send notes taken to Fran to include with these minutes as Appendix A. Recommended project: culvert inventory. Shane Csiki (NH Department of Environmental Services ‘DES’) mentioned the Silver Jackets that is an interagency group that takes on projects. Per Shane Csiki, Town of Orford will be on the agenda for the next meeting. Diane was planning to contact the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Planning Commission (UVLSRPC) regarding Jacobs Brook. Her plan is to look into how to get a culvert study conducted in Orford, NH. Ted will be attending a meeting on 4th October at the RPC so will speak with Steve Schneider (RPC Exec. Dir.) to inquire about the culvert study. Emily reached out to Vital Communities (VC). There is a free public event, a Workshop on Droughts and Downpours: Managing for Extremes. Emily and Harry are planning to attend the (See Appendix B)
3. Jacobs Brook-restoring life report from John McGee (NH Fish and Game). John sent a quick summary of the results of the electrofishing survey. Several species were noted in the brook although the overall density of fish in the brook is lower when compared to other NH sites. Craig noted that the fish population results do not speak to the geomorphology issues currently experienced in Orford. (Appendix C)
4. Excavator work on Sawyer Brook: An excavator has been working immediately adjacent to the brook. Amy Hudnor from NH DES stopped by the site to evaluate if there was a violation. No equipment operator was on site at the time of her visit. Amy will reach out to the landowner to discuss the situation. No permits of record have been found for the site, whether emergency permits or otherwise.
5. Wetlands site visits: David Smith reported that there has been no reply yet from DES regarding a site visit to a bog on Orfordville Rd., a culvert at the Indian Pond access road, and sand used to fill in holes at Indian Pond Beach. David also reported that concern has been raised about the dam at Indian Pond, so he will request that DES look at the dam as well.
6. Ted has one invoice for mowing. Harry moved we pay mowing invoice, Fran seconded. Motion carried.
7. Ted moved that John Miller become an alternate. Fran seconded. Craig moved we amend this motion so that John might consider joining the OCC as a Commissioner or an Alternate. Fran moved the amendment. All were in favor. Motion is now offer John Miller an appointment as a Commissioner or an Alternate. The motion carried.
8. NRI: Commissioner please review their chapters and be sure they are ready to go. Ted will attempt to contact Paul Carreiro, Chair of the Planning Board, to offer the services of the Commission to provide input to the Master Plan. The OCC has provided input to previous Orford Master Plans.
9. Nancy Murphy, Orford Town Treasurer listed her requirements so that a check from the OCC Conservation Fund can be sent to the Upper Valley Land Trust (UVLT). The OCC agreed at the 9th August meeting to donate $10,000 from the Conservation Fund toward purchase of the conservation easement on the Brackett Brook Farm. The OCC donation is dependent on the UVLT fully funding the balance of the $160,000 easement cost. The OCC needs to provide Nancy with a letter from the UVLT indicating that other funds have been raised, granted, or committed. Once the other funding is secured, the OCC will notify Nancy and she will write a check to the UVLT.
10. Carl updated the Commission on the barn and shed out at Mountain View Farm. The Upper Valley Land Trust applied for and received a grant from the Preservation Alliance for an assessment of the barn and shed. The assessment of the barn and shed is scheduled for 5th October. If work is to be done on the barn or shed then funding will need to be obtained.
11. Ted moved that we accept the 8/16/18 minutes. Harry seconded. Motion carried.
12. Tom moved that we adjourn Harry seconded, motion carried, meeting adjourned 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Plaisted