Orford Conservation Commission

Minutes: June 21, 2018

Present: chair, Ted Cooley (Chair), Jeff MacQueen(Vice-Chair), Harry Pease, Tom Bubolz, Emily Bryant, Paul Goundrey, Craig Putnam, John Miller (guest), Harry Pease and Fran Plaisted (Secretary)

Ron Rhodes and Megan Chapman attended the meeting

1. Reviewed the minutes from the 5/18 meeting. There was a question regarding 2C. We have been approved to apply for a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant for Jacobs Brook. Changed. Harry motioned we accept minutes as modified. Craig seconded.
2. Tom B. Took water samples at 7 locations versus the 4 sites we used in prior years. We increased the samples. Everything looks good except Creamery Road which was at 74 (10 and 15 is normal) (88 is the value we close the beaches) and Ted will bring the information to the next meeting on the status. Planning to sample again on July 2 (sample the first month)
3. Ron Rhodes - River Steward for the CT River Conservancy. Jeff and Ron went out with Fish and Game on Monday, 18th June 2018 and took samples for fish populations and the populations seem to be okay. Totally exposed area and the fish have found places to survive. Jim Kennedy applied for an aquatic mitigation grant for a buffer where there is a really tight turn, and possibly make some large steps so the high water has a place to go. There is a lot of rock and not much soil. Not as bad from a fisheries standpoint. From a flood standpoint, that tight turn and skinny section are very prone to flood again. Rocks are loose so they can easily move down the river and may be impacted by the flood. Suggest we have the information and the studies and bring to Select Board. The end of Quinttown Rd. has flood chutes, so if you block all the chutes then the bridge/houses will be at high risk of flooding. We are trying to fix stuff that was done 80 to 100 years ago that straightened the stream. Plan hydrologic Survey to determine flow during high rainfall events. Study would be useful and no cost if we can get the state individual. Suggestion for the survey came from Fish and Game. For OCC efforts in flood mitigation with Jacobs Brook, Craig agreed to be the board member who will serve as the contact person with all those involved: NH Fish and Game and with Ron Rhodes. If State cannot do this then have Stone Environmental to put together a proposal.
4. Megan Chapman is here from Upper Valley Land Trust (UVLT) - Harry Pease will participate in the conversation but will be absent from and abstain from all votes related to this project. The project will be to conserve Brackett Brook Farm, the farm that has been in the Pease Family from 1866. Ms. Chapman researched the USDA NRCS ACEP-ALE- Program. She opted to move forward with application to NRCS and it has been selected for funding. 50% of the easement purchase $120,000 and this was confirmed with the appraised values. NRCS would fund $60,000. Total cost is estimated at $160,000. UVLT is seeking LCHIP funding and Megan Chapman already sent in the application. LCHIP is a very competitive year. Another grant to Appalachian Trail (AT) Landscape Partnership (application is pending). The property directly abuts the AT corridor so it is eligible. We won’t hear from LCHIP until November. UVLT, LCHIP, and NRCS. The Difference amount is $5000 if all grants are obtained, but this could easily be higher. We will review this issue in August for the funds the OCC may contribute and then go through the process of public hearing for funding.
5. Invoices: $80 for mowing in May. Ted motioned we approve the $80 to Alan Dyke for mowing. Harry seconded. Motioned carried all in favor.
6. Appointments- Ted moved that the terms of the OCC Commissioners whose terms are up in a given year expire at the same time. (propose 31st of March.) New Terms begin 1st April. Fran seconded motioned carried no objections
7. Three motions regarding terms and appointees: Goal to have all terms end on 3/31 and divide up terms so the three are replaced every year.
8. Ted motioned “Move that the terms of the OCC Commissioners whose term are up in a given year expire at the same time. Old terms expire on 31st March. New terms begin 1st April. Jeff seconded motion carried.
9. Ted motioned that Harry Pease, Craig Putnam, Fran Plaisted (Alternate), and Paul Goundrey (Alternate) be put forth for reappointment to the OCC for a 3-year term. Jeff seconded motions carried.
10. Ted motioned that Jeff MacQueen, Carl Cassel(alternate) and Emily Bryant (Alternate) have two year terms. Harry seconded. Motion carried.
11. No news regarding the easements or easement issues pending Orford Town Attorney to discuss existing easements with UVLT.
12. Emily contacted Bry Beeson who is interested in doing something with pollinators, planting native plants on his land for a pollinator area/garden. Jeff developed a pollinator garden on the Richmond Land last summer with the students.
13. Craig provided an update on the evaluation he and Emily attended on Quinttown Road. Shane came up from DES to the top of Jacobs Brook. We await the report but preliminary issues are that it is a steep stream with a lot of material moving. Quinttown Road may be threatened. Is there work to be done to protect the road? Flood plains may help.
14. 8:25 Fran Plaisted motioned we go into closed meeting. Ted seconded. Motion Carried. Closed meeting ended at 8:37. Harry motioned that we seal the minutes from closed minute. Craig seconded. Motion carried.
15. Tom moved that the meeting be adjourned; the motion was seconded by Harry, and approved unanimously.
16. Meeting adjourned at 8:39.

Respectfully Submitted,

Fran Plaisted