Orford Conservation Commission

Approved Minutes of Meeting on May 18, 2017

Present: Commissioners – Ted Cooley, Carl Schmidt, Jeff MacQueen, Tom Bubolz, Craig Putnam, Emily Bryant; Alternates - Carl Cassel, Diane Gildersleeve; Selectboard representative: Paul Goundrey.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03. Carl Cassel was asked to stand in as a regular member.

**1.** **Minutes** of 4/20/17 were reviewed. The description of Kelley Monahan’s presentation was revised at her request, and a few other minor changes were made.

**>** Motion (Tom B/Paul G): to approve the April 2017 minutes as amended. The motion carried.

**2.** **Reports**

*a.* *Invasives* summary: Ted will talk with Ron Rhodes of CRWC and the invasives expert Fritz Gerhart about what’s next with the invasives on the Orford Conservation Land.

There was talk about monitoring conserved lands and whose responsibility it is. (OCC? UVLT? SPNHF?) OCC has the responsibility to monitor the Richardson/Schwaegler easement.

*b.* *Water testing*: Tom arranged to have Eastern Analytics pick up the water tests in the first week of each month, June through September (4 times). This is paid from the OCC town budget fund of $1970. Tom will ask the Selectboard how they want to deal with the test results.

**3.** **Invoices, etc.**

*a. Climate change talk publicity*: Carl Schmidt spent $121.59 on a boxholder postcard for the upcoming talk.

> Motion (Emily/Craig): Approve and pay $121.59 to Carl Schmidt for the boxholder. Motion carried.

*b. NRI* -Upper Valley Lake Sunapee RPC: Received invoice for #385. The bill from last month will be paid next week.

> Motion (Carl S./Paul) to approve and pay the UVLSRPC invoice for $385. Motion carried.

*c. Mowing:* Jeff mentioned that Alan Dyke has begun mowing at the Orford Conservation Land. At the CC’s request, he is now including mowing a path along the edge of the field to where the new road goes to the lower level. Charge will increase from $20 to $40 per mowing (every two weeks). The bill will go to Jeff who will give it to Sheri. We need to make sure the increase doesn’t overrun the budget.

*d. Conservation Fund*: Carl C. mentioned that ~$5800 was added to the Conservation Fund recently. The treasurer will add current use conversion penalties to the Conservation Fund quarterly.

**4. NRI.** Ted asked Amber of UVLSRPC how much more work needs to be done on the NRI. She estimated 70-80 hours, with a maximum charge of $4400 more. Ted will ask Harry how much we have spent already. This project needs to get done, people should work on their assigned chapters. Emily volunteered to help with the geology map as needed, and people agreed to that. We reviewed the NRI chapter assignments:

**Ch # Title Person Responsible**

 1 Introduction Amber

 2 The Natural Resources of Orford Amber

 3 Inventory Methods and Data Sources Amber

 4 Land in Conservation and Current Use Amber

 5 Climate Change Amber

 6 Geology Devon Renock

 7 Surface Water Resources Tom

 8 Wetland Resources ? (B. Schwaegler?)

 9 Floodplain Resources Anne Duncan Cooley

 10 Groundwater Resources Fran?

 11 Agricultural Resources Craig

 12 Forest Resources Harry

 13 Wildlife and Plant Resources Jeff

 14 Scenic Resources Paul

 15 Outdoor Recreation Resources Ted

**Ch # Title Person Responsible**

 16 Cultural and Historic Resources Carl S.

 17 Air Quality, Peace and Quiet, and Dark Skies Resources Anne Duncan Cooley

 18 Natural Resources Co-occurrence Emily

 19 Conclusion Amber

 20 Appendix A: Data Source Documentation Amber

 21 Appendix B: Wildlife Sightings Jeff

 22 Appendix C: Native and Non-Native Plants Sarah Schwaegler

 23 Maps (update previous maps, add Geology) Amber (and Emily)

 24 Index Ted

Ted will check on:

- what has Amber done for Ch 4 Current Use

- is Fran doing Ch 10 – Groundwater

- ask Harry what he has done for Ch 12 Forest

- will send Carl S text of Ch 16

- check with Amber about Ch 19 Conclusion

We decided that the maps could stay at the end of the document, but with a reference to them in the text.

Jeff will check with those who compiled the lists of animals (David Coker, Bill McKee, and Bry Beeson as well as himself), and try to streamline the lists (omit duplicates, etc.)

Jeff urged members to contribute photos.

Process: rather than everyone editing all text together (very long and painful), each person look at the existing text for their chapter (Ted can provide digital version), update it, and then let others know, so they can look at it and send suggestions back to the author. Ted will find a spot for these files where everyone can get at them.

Craig has done a lot on the Agriculture chapter. Perhaps Harry could inquire of farmers whether they are still farming, and if not, why not.

At this point, Amber is waiting for us to get back to her with our chapters.

**5. Other business**

Carl S.:

* Will look into setting up a visit to the Peter Fisher property (erosion control project on CT river shoreline).
* -He noted that there is likely buyer for the Soper property – the CC helped pay for an appraisal of it a few years ago with the possibility of conservation in mind.
* Mountain View Farm barn and shed – he talked with a prof at Keene state who may have students interested in doing baseline documentation for these buildings. Ted suggested that Karol Kawioski at Dartmouth might also be interested.

Jeff: reminder that the Climate Change talk with Sherry Godlewski is coming up on Monday 5/22 at 7pm at the Multipurpose room of the school. Boxholder has been sent; Valley News notified, will be put on the Orford Listserv. She will talk with High School Students as well earlier in the day. Some members will go to supper with her at 5:30.

>Motion: (Tom B/ Craig sedonded) to adjourn. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at about 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Plaisted