

## Orford Conservation Commission (OCC) Meeting Minutes: September 19 2019

Present: Board members: Ted Cooley (Chair), Craig Putnam, Tom Bubolz, Harry Pease, Emily Bryant (Alternate) Fran Plaisted (Alternate), Carl Schmidt, John Miller. Guests: Sarah Schwaegler, John Merriman (Orford Highway Department).

Meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM. Emily was seated for the meeting.

1. Minutes: Tom moved we approve the final minutes from August and July. Harry seconded. Motion carried.
2. Sarah Schwaegler discussed the Japanese Knotweed on Tillotson Falls Road. We need to review options to keep this invasive from multiplying. Perhaps we can prevent it from invading Tillotson Falls. Apt to travel with trucks so it is easy to spread. She would like to take it on but cannot. We need to find out where it is located, median, private property etc. Doug Cygan from DES came and talked in Orford. <https://www.agriculture.nh.gov/publications-forms/documents/japanese-knotweed-bmps.pdf>
3. John Berryman (Orford Highway Department) provided two options to treat knotweed: (a) remove it, roots and all, and dispose of it in landfills, or (b) use herbicides/pesticides.
4. Indian Pond Project- John Berryman took the NH DOT culvert class to determine what DOT projects require permits. He inspected the culvert under the Indian Pond access road. Discontinuing the culvert is an option.
5. Orfordville Bog – DuBois & King came back with an estimate of \$16,000, which includes the project design and the DES permit application. That is now in front of the Selectboard to vote up or down.
6. Jacobs Brook Project is still on schedule for plantings in October per Ron Rhodes. He has asked for dates so that we can try to locate some volunteers to help out with planting.
7. Land Use Agreements: The land use agreements with Tullando Farm, starting in 2011, provided Tullando Farm permission to use the land at both locations for hay or corn growing in exchange for agreements to keep the land up, including brush hogging. They have also avoided trimming the riparian buffer. The agreement for the Richmond land expired in 12/18, and for the boat landing expires on 6/1/2020. Should we open use of the land to other farmers, or should we again lease the land to Tullando Farm? They have invested significantly in work at the Richmond Land, including improvement of an access road. Therefore, Harry recommended we should continue in that agreement. The License Agreements include a liability insurance requirement. **Step 1.** Discuss agreements the Town Attorney. Policy - Tullando Farm was granted the license agreement in the

past. Recommendation: that we determine Tullando Farm investment in Town property improvements such as the access road. We agreed to proceed with Step 1 and revisit this subject at the next meeting.

8. Invoices- Ted presented two invoices for the culvert inventory: \$1,596.86 and \$4,593.86 (charges to two projects). The Town has agreed to 50% of those two bills. Ted moved that the OCC pay remaining 50% from the Conservation Fund. John seconded. Motion carried.
9. Two outstanding Land Use Change Tax payments will be deposited in the Conservation Fund.
10. Carl Schmidt was asked by the Upper Valley Land Trust to raise \$5,000 to fund stabilization work on the Billy Brown barn and shed at Mountain View Farm, and to date he has raised \$3,400. He encouraged Commissioners to contribute individually.
11. Annual Meeting and Conference of the NH Association of Conservation Commissions (NHACC) will be held at the Pembroke Academy on 11/2. If anyone is interested in attending, the OCC will fund their tuition.
12. Maintenance for the Indian Pond Heritage Trail- In the past, Paul Goundrey and Ted Cooley did maintenance on the Trail. Current status is that Paul has contacted The Upper Valley Trails Alliance. They in turn are working to get grants to repair and maintain the trail. We are expecting to get proposals shortly. The OCC is likely to need to take over maintenance of the Heritage Trail.
13. On October 19<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m., John Porter will present a program at an Orford Historical Society. John's topic: "The History of Agriculture as Told by Barns". The presentation will be followed by a visit to Washburn Hill in Orfordville to tour historic English-style and Yankee-style barns.
14. The price quote for the design study for the culvert on Stonehouse Mtn. Rd. seemed high. We agreed to search for other options
15. Japanese Knotweed. We need to discovered presence of the weed in Orford.
16. OCC seeks Alternate and Board members.

Tom moved to adjourn. John seconded. Motion carried

Meeting adjourn at 8:11 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Fran Plaisted