

Orford Conservation Commission (OCC)

Meeting Minutes: April 23, 2020

Meeting held via Zoom due to COVID-19 social distancing requirements

Ted Cooley, John Miller, Thomas Bubolz, Diane Gildersleeve, Harry Pease, Craig Putnam, Carl Cassel, Emily Bryant, Carl Schmidt

Ted Cooley did a role call. Ted discussed procedures for voting. We will use a visual roll call. Harry is on the phone and he will voice his vote verbally.

7:08: meeting called to order

Minutes: Outstanding minutes from December, January, February.

1. 12/19/19-Tom Bulbolz motioned we accept the minutes from 12/19/19. John Miller seconded. Motion carried.
2. 1/16/2020-Minutes John motioned we accept the minutes from 1/16/2020. Tom B. seconded. Motion carried.
3. 2/20/2020- Minutes- Tom B. motioned to accept the minutes. John seconded. Motion carried.
4. 3/19/2020 No meeting.
5. Water testing-Harry is working on this. He did not feel the C-19 would impact the testing. We need to be sure the lab/ courier is open. Harry needs to get together with Jeff to obtain materials etc. Looking for a volunteer to help Harry do the test. He is looking for someone to accompany him to see the locations. John Miller is willing to learn the routine in the event Harry is unable to take the samples.
6. Commissioner and Alternate. We need to fill the positions of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Finance Committee. Nominate Ted Cooley to be Chair, Emily nominates John Miller to second the nomination.
7. Slate officers: Chair: Ted Cooley

Vice chair: John Miller

Secretary: Fran Plaisted

Ted Cooley motioned the slate of officers, Carl Cassel seconded. Motion carried.

8. Finance Committee-Carl Cassel and Emily Bryant agreed to continue to serve on this committee.
9. Invasive Species Seminar- No community talk because no gatherings.
10. John Miller – Invasive Species Knotweed at Tillotson Falls. Information received from another source about using mesh to kill the plants. Doug P?? interested in project helping us in June . We would cut it and then it would try to regrow where there is hardware cloth. John motioned we set up a subcommittee to deal with this. Ted motioned we accept this as a pilot project. Harry Pease seconded. Motion carried. Harry, Craig, Emily and John
11. Orfordville Culvert/ Bog preservation project a beaver back in residence and shoring up the leaks. John has seen invoices but no design. The Selectboard agreed to move forward with the project if we funded the design. They cannot do it this year. We can apply for the permits and the town agreed to consider doing the project next year.

12. NRI subcommittee – Craig reported that they were progressing on editing. What chapters need to be upgraded or fixed. Emily has current use statistics, data, resources. NRI update. Draft versions of photography. We can include photos. Gather together what we have as draft version and then have the entire board. John recommended that we NRI be updated in sections over time. Ted thanked the NRI sub
13. Land Use Permits – both will be expired shortly. Orford Conservation Land has expired and Tullando Farms has likely fertilized and planning a first cut. Ted will follow up on this issue as she had a few minor changes on the agreement.
14. Three invoices: 4/17/2020-\$891- Horizons engineering. Ted motioned we pay John seconded. Motion carried.
 - b. 3/4/2020-\$3732.75 Horizons Engineering invoices. Ted motioned. Harry seconded motion carried.
 - c. 4/1/2020-\$5136.73 Horizons Engineering invoices. Ted motioned, Tom B seconded motion carried.

15. Trail Finder- Have the trails in Orford posted on their website. Looking for permission to post on the website. Mall Walk, Trail at Richmond Property, Indian Pond Heritage trail, Mason Pond trail (need UVLT), Daniel Don trail up Smarts

16. Commissioners Terms - Libby Chaffin -she is interested in becoming involved with OCC. Spoke with Christine, Larissa. We need to replace one commissioner. Let's try to come up with list.

17. Events and Outreach – Backyard photographs perhaps a map and photo of the trail head. Promote our trails/ land. Document the Japanese knotweed project using this new technique.

18. Emerald Ash Borer- is as far north as Claremont, NH. Give it some consideration. Methods to keep it out of town: Not to bring firewood in campgrounds, survey of Ash Trees in Town. Perhaps we need to get more folks involved and not bringing firewood into town.

19. John Miller reported he was contacted by Bry Beason wanted us to focus on gardens for pollinators, publicize the importance of wild plants and importance of them to pollinators and birds.

5/21/2020 and 6/18/2020 are the next two meetings scheduled at 7pm.

Zoom Account is Ted Cooley's account and the town is not being charged.

Tom motioned we adjourn, John seconded.

Meeting ended at 8:11pm.

Respectfully submitted

Fran Plaisted