Orford Conservation Commission

 Minutes of April 16, 2015 Meeting

Commissioners Present: Harry Pease, Tom Bubolz, Jeff MacQueen, Carl Cassel; Alternates Present: Emily Bryant, Fran Plaisted and Craig Putnam; Selectboard Representative: Anne Duncan Cooley

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Harry requested that Emily Bryant and Craig Putnam serve as Commissioners tonight for two vacant positions.

Tom made a motion and Carl seconded the motion to approve the March 2015 minutes and they were unanimously approved.

Old Business:

Riparian Buffer for Orford Conservation Land Project: Harry met with representatives from the Connecticut River Watershed Council (CRWC), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Tullando Farm to plan the riparian buffer work. It was agreed that a work group would meet at 9:30 am on April 29 to remove invasive plants from the existing buffer and mark out the new buffer area to be planted. Numbers and types of trees and shrubs for planting were selected from an NRCS approved list and CRWC agreed to order them. Trees and shrubs will be delivered on May 4. Harry will transport them to the work site. Planting will begin at 9:30 am on May 5 and will be done by Conservation Commission members and CRWC representatives and a three man crew CRWC has under contract. Tullando Farm will provide mulch to be mixed with the topsoil for the planting and to be placed around each stem. Harry will put a notice on the listserv about the two work days and ask for volunteer help. The next phase of the project is removal of the invasive plants on the rest of the property. We will need a licensed contractor to do this. The goal will be to eliminate as many as we can by hand and use as little chemical treatment as possible. We need to have this done by the end of July. Jeff volunteered to contact contractors to check on availability and get prices.

Conservation Fund and Budget: There have been no changes since last month. Anne reported that there are additional funds of about $6,000 expected from the sale of two lots at Bunten Farm that were taken out of current use.

New Business:

Election of Officers: Fran Plaisted agreed to continue as secretary and Tom agreed to be back up secretary, Harry agreed to continue to serve as chair, and Carl Cassel agreed to continue as vice chair. Craig motioned that we nominate the slate of officers as outlined and Tom seconded. All voted in favor of the motion and the three officers were re-elected.

Commission Members: There are two vacancies on the Commission. We discussed getting new members and all agreed to think about potential candidates and report back at the May meeting. Harry said he would contact the Selectboard about re-appointing Fran since her appointment expired in March and she had not received a new appointment.

Update on Tree Planting Around Newcomb Hollow Bridge: We still expect to obtain trees from the CRWC for the planting, but it will not take place until the fall.

Annual Photo Contest: Craig suggested for the photo contest next year that we have an animal photo category and that we only give one prize per person even if they have more than one winning photo. All agreed.

Kiosk at Orford Conservation Land: Tom asked about the kiosk that was going to be built. Jeff will contact Brad McCormick about building a kiosk and report back.

Conservation Camp: Jeff is doing a week of conservation camp this summer for Rivendell and he is looking for projects/ideas to get kids active in conservation. All agreed this was a good idea and will give some thought to potential projects.

Tom moved and Carl seconded a motion to adjourn which was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Plaisted