Orford Conservation Commission

Minutes of Meeting on June 16, 2016

Commissioners Present: Carl Cassel, Tom Bubolz, Carl Schmidt; Alternates Present: Emily Bryant and Fran Plaisted; Selectboard Representative: Anne Duncan Cooley; Public: David Bischoff Carl Cassel served as chair.

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

Carl requested that Emily and Fran serve as full Commissioners for the meeting.

Minutes of the May Meeting: Carl Schmidt made a motion that we approve the May minutes, Tom seconded and the motion carried.

Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) Update: Several Commissioners said they needed more time to review the NRI Update proposal from the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission before making a decision on it. Carl Cassel will send it to all Commissioners who will then review it and send any comments to Harry.

Preparations for the Fairlee Forest Festival on July 2: Jeff is preparing displays of the Orford Conservation Land and the Mason Pond Project. He requested additional pictures from Commissioners of the tree planting and invasive plant removal at the Orford Conservation Land for the display. Emily is preparing a map of Orford’s conservation lands and trails to have as a handout. We will also take our invasive plant pamphlets to hand out. Carl Cassel and Jeff will set up the display and Commissioners will take turns manning the booth during the festival hours of 11:00 a.m.to 6:00 p.m.

Mason Pond Project Celebration on Orford Day August 13: There will be a celebration of the Mason Pond Project at 2:00 p.m. on August 13. David Bischoff proposed that we use the granite door step lying near the Billy Brown shed to mount a plaque recognizing people and groups who contributed to the success of the project and the Commissioners agreed. UVLT plans to lead a hike over Stonehouse Mountain to the site as part of the celebration. Carl Schmidt and Harry will call UVLT to discuss the event and what they envision for the day. They will also discuss publicity, including a press release about the project.

NH Barn Committee Scheduled Visit to Billy Brown Barn: Carl Schmidt has arranged for the NH Barn Committee to visit and inspect the barn and shed as part of their annual education and outreach program. They will provide advice on how best to preserve the barns and shed. The plan is to meet at the Town Hall Heritage Center at 10:00 a.m. on July 12 and carpool to Quinttown. In addition to Barn Committee members, there will be some state officials and representatives from the Conservation Commission and UVLT.

UVLT Annual Meeting: Harry and Carl Schmidt attended the Upper Valley Land Trust Annual Meeting on June 15. The Orford Conservation Commission was honored with a special award for our outstanding efforts and success in helping conserve the land at the Mason Pond Project.

LCHIP Grant for Mason Pond Project: Harry has a letter that is addressed to LCHIP requesting that the $92,500 grant awarded to the Orford Conservation Commission for the Mason Pond Project be re-assigned directly to UVLT so that the funds don’t have to flow through Orford’s accounts to get to UVLT. The Commissioners reviewed the letter. Carl Cassel made a motion that we approve the letter, Emily seconded and the motion carried. Harry will sign and send the letter.

Tom Bubolz moved to adjourn, Fran seconded and the meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectively submitted, Fran Plaisted