Orford Conservation Commission

DRAFT Minutes of Meeting on September 21, 2017

Present: Commissioners – Ted Cooley (Chair), Carl Schmidt, Jeff MacQueen (Vice Chair), Harry Pease, Tom Bubolz, Craig Putnam, Emily Bryant, Fran Plaisted (Secretary) as an alternate

The meeting was called to order at 7:01.

Fran Plaisted will serve as a member tonight

1. Craig motioned we accept the minutes from July and August as amended. Tom Seconded. Motion carried.
2. Water testing demonstrates that there is no longer an issue of high E.coli colony count. The new sampling (behind Old Town Hall) sites on Jacobs brook readings were closer to normal.
3. Bruce Schwaegler – Wetland bureau applications on 9 additional woody locations in Indian Pond Brook scheduled over three years. He is planning in cooperation with NRCS. He shared Wetland Bureau applications with the OCC for approval prior to sending the applications to the bureau.
4. Letter from Upper Valley Land Trust: We need to confirm receipt of $60,000 from the Conservation Fund. The $60k was the agreed upon portion for the purchase the Mountain View Farm in August 2016.

NRI Update:

Ted Cooley set up a Dropbox folder to include all the documents that we have worked on. Goal is to finish by the end of the year. The link to the folder is:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/hho2kmwbl8sgsz6/AACkG4lwaCDpY2K_6RGbbsfQa?dl=0>

Chapter by chapter update:

Changes in list: Fran will do wetlands chapter and we will all review the Groundwater Resources section.

Emily is working on Maps to be included with the chapters of the NRI. She has developed Conserved and Public Lands. We will include a small map, at the beginning of each chapter, that relates directly to the contents of the chapter. A large pull-out version of the small maps will be included at end of the end of the NRI document. All commissioners: look at maps and provide feedback to Emily.

Co-Occurrence Modeling:

Stack layers one on top of the other and then weight the statistic. How do we weight the items? The weighting of the items is community based: groundwater, surface water, floodplains, etc.; soils, wildlife habitat, unfragmented land (blocks greater than 2000 acres); and so on. Various layers were equally weighted in prior NRI versions. To Do: we need to figure out the weighting of the resources. The weightings can appear arbitrary. Does applying weights make sense? We will look at co-occurrence and will have to make a value decision. Amber is going to send a synopsis and guides that were used by other towns.

Wildlife resources: Forest Types

Begin reviewing all the chapters.

Sara Brock- energy conservation talk on 10/10 at 7:00 p.m.

Vital Communities (VC) Weatherize: Group effort among Orford, Piermont, and Lyme (OPaL). If selected, $100 energy audits will be available to residents (usual cost is $ hundreds). Following audits, certified contractors recommended VC can make bids to perform recommended energy conservation projects. Up to $4000 match from State of NH for qualified households. Looking for Orford volunteers.

Trails- Upper Valley Trails Alliance has a trail finder website to which they would like to add Orford Trails. Trails that should be included: Cross Rivendell Trail, Indian Pond Heritage Trail, Mt. Smarts Daniel Doan Trail. Historic Mall Walk, Richmond Land. AT already included.

Motion: (Tom/Harry) to adjourn. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Plaisted