Orford Conservation Commission

DRAFT Minutes of Meeting on October 19, 2017

Present: Commissioners – Ted Cooley (Chair), Carl Schmidt, Tom Bubolz, Craig Putnam, Fran Plaisted (Secretary) as an alternate.

Fran Plaisted was asked to serve as a member

The meeting was called to order at 7:00.

Minutes: Ted motioned we table the minutes, Craig seconded. Motion carried.

The NH Association of Conservation Commission Annual Meeting is 4th November. The OCC agreed to fund fee of anyone who wanted to attend. Those present could not attend. The Annual Meeting is at Pembroke Academy.

Tom reported we have concluded water sampling for 2017. The commissioners reviewed the issue with the elevated reading on Jacobs Brook and reviewed potential causes for the elevated levels. We considered the option of increased testing (possibly every two weeks vs. four weeks) in 2018. We will discuss the testing strategy for 2018 in April so that Tom can schedule the testing dates with the lab.

Invoices:

Ted motioned that we pay our annual dues to the NH Association of Conservation Commission. Carl seconded and we agreed to pay from the OCC account.

Invoice for mowing. Ted motioned to pay, Tom seconded. We agreed to pay the bill. The invoice was not paid in August so we have an outstanding bill.

Carl shared the invitation to see Peter Fisher’s Connecticut River riverbank stabilization project on 10/26. Four members are currently planning to go. Ted is a possibility. the stabilization project is a major installation on a very high and vulnerable spot. Some members of the Upper Valley River Subcommittee are also planning to join the viewing of the project.

Carl reported progress on the question of maintaining the Billy Brown Barn and Shed at the Mountain View Farm conservation land. The maintenance stems from an agreement on the part of the UV Land Trust that we try to maintain the structures. Carl has been working to figure out what needs to be done to provide essential stabilization and repair work on the two structures, with the first step being to get measured drawings of both buildings. Professor Bart Sapeta, Director of the Architecture Department at Keene State College, together with a Senior in the program, visited Quinttown on September 29th and recorded detailed measurements of the structures. The measurements are based on enlargements of photos that Professor Sapeta had taken during a site visit in May. David Coker and Dave Bischoff assisted, along with Jason Berard from the Upper Valley Land Trust. The information will be digitized with AutoCAD. The next step will be to have a barn preservation specialist use the drawings along with prioritized recommendations to come up with a cost estimate for needed repair work. With the work cost in hand, we can discuss raising the funds need for the repairs.

Upper Valley Land Trust Book Purchase

Cost = $13. Ted motioned we purchase the NH Planning and Land Use Regulations Handbook, Tom seconded. Motion carried.

Renew contract with Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission from June amendment to the RPC Ted motioned, Tom seconded. Motion carried

NRI Update:

Amber is searching for someone to write the geology chapter. The Co-occurrence Model Protocol Amber has been using was reviewed and discussed.

Maps

Emily brought printed maps. The maps are in electronic format. We discussed high resolution map with a zoom-in feature: as one zooms in the amount of detail in the map increases. Zoom out for less.

NRI:

Complete chapters and send to Ted. Standard Format: Resources, Threats, Current Management, Protection and Climate Change, and then Recommendations. Agreed that this format will be used when applicable.

Upper Valley Land Trust wants to attend meeting to discuss a trail on land adjacent to Stone House Mountain and the Mountain View Farm. Agreed to attend meeting in 11/17.

Budget:

Flat funded. $1970. Will want to check the water sampling costs and increases in mowing for the following year (2019), before the budget is due for 2019. Ted will request a breakdown of expenses and then examine the costs for the following year, but it is too late for the 2018 budget cycle.

Potential rescheduling of December meeting from 12/21/17 to 12/14/17.

Motion: (Tom to adjourn. Fran seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Plaisted