Orford Conservation Commission Meeting, May 24, 2018

Approved Minutes

Present: Commissioners – Ted Cooley, Craig Putnam, Emily Bryant, Harry Pease; Public: Deenie Bugge.

The meeting was called to order at about 7:00.

**1. Minutes**

a) 4/19/18 draft minutes were reviewed.

*Motion* (Harry/Craig): to accept the April 2018 minutes as previously amended. The motion carried.

b) 2/15/18 minutes as edited by Ted were reviewed. A few minor items were corrected.

> *Motion* (Harry/Craig) to accept the minutes of February 2018 as corrected. The motion carried.

c) 3/1/18 minutes of special meeting.

*Motion* (Harry/Craig) to accept the minutes as Harry had amended them.

>>**Action**: **Craig** will forward a copy of the 3/1/18 minutes to Ted.

Procedure for distribution of minutes: send to the Town Administrator and post on the Orford Listserv.

**2.** **Reports**

a) *Jacobs Brook*. Three members of the CC -- Ted, Craig, and Harry (not a quorum) met with Jim Kennedy before the meeting to look at Jacobs Brook and get information from Jim about the “pre-proposal” he submitted to the NH DES Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) Fund requesting about $60K for remediation/ restoration/ improvement of about ½ mile of Jacobs Brook upstream of the Brook Road bridge in Orfordville, where NH DOT did some work in the past year. The response from Lori Sommer (DES) to the preproposal indicated that competition for the funds is stiff, and the goals of the proposal may not meet the specifications for the ARM Fund. Money from ARM would be available November 2018 if the proposal were accepted.

Another possibility is to apply to the NH Charitable Foundation’s Upper Connecticut River Mitigation and Enhancement Fund (MEF). Money from this fund would be available in January 2019 if a proposal were accepted.

Jim would like to have a point of contact/coordinator in Orford to help with this project. There was discussion of who would/could do this and what it would entail: organizing volunteers, getting contributions in kind, etc.

>>**Actions: Ted** will contact Carl Cassel and Diane Gildersleeve to see if either is interested in being the contact person. **Emily** will contact John and Bethany Miller to see if they are interested. **Ted** will email Jim K. to update him on where we are in terms of identifying a contact person.

b) *Brackett Brook Farm Project*. Megan Chapman, Conservation Project Manager from the Upper Valley Land Trust, would like to come to the June 2018 meeting to describe the possible Brackett Brook Farm conservation project. She will be applying to LCHIP (Land and Community Heritage Investment Program) for funding on this and would like a sense of whether the CC would make a financial contribution to the project as well. (The deadline for the LCHIP application is the end of June.) Cost of the project would include the easement itself, appraisal, possible survey, and a contribution to UVLT fund for ongoing costs like monitoring. Brackett Brook Farm is owned by Harry and Linda Pease; Harry will recuse himself and leave the CC meeting when any decisions on the project are being made.

c*) Jacobs Brook and DOT*: Paul Goundrey indicated in an email that NH DES will meet on June 4, 2018 about Jacobs Brook, and said that the Town has been approved for a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant for Jacobs Brook.

d) *Water Testing*: Tom Bubolz, who usually does water testing, was not at the meeting. The sense was that water testing (with one or more new sites this year) will begin in June.

e) *Stonehouse Mtn easement*. There was no news on the possible change in the conservation easement the Town has on Stonehouse Mtn. Given recent changes in the Selectboard and the Town Attorney, it is expected that progress on this matter will be slow.

**3. Business**

a) *Invoices*: Mowing on the Orford Conservation Land has started for the year, but no invoices have been received this month for this or anything else.

b) *NRI:* The meeting passed over this.

c. *Projects:* There was discussion about work on Jacobs Brook as a project that would help both the brook and the community (people can’t drive on Rte 25A if the brook washes it out). Deenie B. wondered whether an outdoor program about the brook could help get the community involved. Ron Rhodes of the Connecticut River Conservancy might have experience with community involvement.

>>**Action: Harry** will call Ron Rhodes about coming to a meeting to talk about Jacobs Brook ideas, possibly in June.

d) *Appointment of representatives* to (UVLSRPC). Ted Cooley and Mark Burger are currently the Town’s representatives to UVLSRPC. UVLSRPC needs a letter from the Selectboard confirming that they are still the designated representatives.

*Motion*: (Harry/Craig) to adjourn. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Bryant