**Orford Conservation Commission**

**Approved Meeting Minutes: August 16th, 2018**

Present: Ted Cooley (Chair), Harry Pease, Carl Schmidt, Emily Bryant, Jeff MacQueen (Vice-Chair), David Smith (Selectboard liaison)

Ted asked Emily to serve as a commissioner.

1. Minutes from 7/19 meeting were reviewed, minor corrections were suggested, mostly typos. Harry moved to accept the minutes, Carl seconded, minutes were approved.
2. Draft minutes from the August 9th public hearing for the Brackett Brook Farm project were reviewed, several minor changes were made. Carl moved to accept the minutes with changes, Emily seconded, minutes were approved.
3. Minutes from the meeting after the public hearing on August 9th were reviewed, again, minor changes were made. Emily moved to accept the minutes, Carl seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.
4. Orford resident John Miller led a discussion on Orford Watershed Management. The commission has been addressing this in the wake of last year’s flooding and has been working with various agencies to try to prevent the kind of damage seen to Jacob’s Brook and 25A. John proposed that we broaden our focus not only to Jacob’s Brook, but to the entire Orford watershed, including Archertown, Brackett, Clough, Mousley and Whipple Brooks. The history and concerns about the various brooks and the roads under which they pass was detailed, culvert design and maintenance were discussed. Harry reminded us that many of the brooks cross under state roads as well as town roads. The culvert, beaver guard and spillway where Clough Brook crosses Orfordville Road were discussed at length, as fluctuating water levels here could impact the wetland area at this site. John described specific problems unique to this area and David provided a history of changes made to the spillway area over time. Harry suggested that the Wetlands Bureau of the D.E.S. be contacted and David volunteered. The invasive plant Japanese Knotweed continues to be a problem along Jacobs Brook.
5. The Brackett Brook Farm visit was discussed. Representatives from the commission, LCHIP, UVLT and NH Fish and Game were present to walk the farm on August 14th and hear a presentation on the project by Megan Chapman of UVLT and landowner Harry Pease. Emily and Jeff, who attended felt that the visit and presentation went very well. The grant process continues.
6. Invoices were received for mowing at the Orford Conservation Land and for notices about the public hearing for the Brackett Brook Farm in the Journal Opinion and Valley News. Motion to accept the invoices was made by Harry, seconded by Emily. The motion carried.
7. Appointments for commissioners and alternates was reviewed. We have received our appointments from the Selectboard.
8. Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission. Representatives for this regional planning commission requested an approval from the town.
9. The protocol for sealing and unsealing minutes and for closed sessions was outlined by Ted. Ted then moved to unseal the minutes from the June 21st meeting. Harry seconded and the motion carried.
10. Flood resiliency and Shane Csiki’s letter were discussed. Harry will work with Craig to respond to Shane’s letter.
11. Other updates included efforts to restore Billy Brown’s barns at Mountainview Farm from Carl and Tom’s water quality report. Water quality along Jacob’s Brook is good.
12. Emily moved that we adjourn Carl seconded, motion carried, meeting adjourned 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff MacQueen