

Orford Conservation Commission (OCC)
Meeting Minutes: December 19, 2019

Present: Board members: Ted Cooley (Chair), Carl Cassel, Tom Bubolz, Emily Bryant (Alternate) Fran Plaisted (Alternate), Carl Schmidt, John Miller and Jeff MacQueen

Meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM. Emily was seated for the meeting.

1. Minutes: John Miller moved we approve the minutes from November 21, 2019. Jeff seconded. Motion carried.
2. Budget: The Selectboard increased the OCC budget appropriation to include additional water testing in 2020.
3. Land use agreements: Awaiting recommended tweaks from Town Attorney regarding land use agreements for the Boat Landing and the Richmond Land.
4. Indian Pond Culvert: no update in status.
5. Beavers: OCC will reach out to the Selectboard regarding process for dealing with issues created by beavers. Further discuss alternative techniques and devices such as “beaver deceiver”.
6. Jacobs Brook Project: Project completed with stake plantings.
7. Culvert Inventory: Meagan Butts of the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission has agreed to present 21st January with a snow data of the 28th. This will be an public presentation given by the RPC to present their culvert study data.
8. Invasives Project: John Miller reported that the quote amount is \$9685. Cost can be reduced by up to \$5000 if we enlist volunteer cutters. John Miller requested creation of a subcommittee. Land owner permission and abutter notification required before any action taken. Motion to approve “up to” amount of \$6000 pending landowner approval carried. Doug Cygan from NH Department of Agriculture can make a presentation about the invasive knotweed. Motion for John Miller to contact Doug and arrange a date (tentative 20th April) carried.
9. Orfordville Bog Culvert Project: John Moved that Conservation Fund monies be used to cover fees and expenses incurred for Orfordville Road bog/culvert upgrade engineering study, not to exceed \$10,000, pending agreement by the Selectboard to execute the culvert repair. Carl Cassel seconded. The motion carried. Ted will draft the letter to the Selectboard.
10. Invoice: For legal work performed in October, 2019. Ted moved that we pay the invoice, John seconded. Motion carried.
11. Recruiting: Libby Chapin wants to help on subcommittee project like invasives. Ted will reach out to her.

12. Commissioners: Jeff MacQueen will be stepping down. John Miller and Carl Cassel have agreed to continue as Commissioner and Alternate, respectively.
13. Indian Pond Heritage Trail: Upper Valley Trails Alliance is looking at grant opportunities for maintenance of the Trail.
14. Activities: Upper Valley Land Trust is hosting a snow shoe hike at Mountain View Farm on 10th January. The event will be shared on Facebook and the Orford List.
15. Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) Subcommittee: Ted appointed John, Craig, Harry, and Emily to be on the NRI subcommittee. Ted uploaded documents to the OCC Google Drive. The subcommittee is asked to restart the NRI project.
16. Fran left the meeting.
17. Updates from Commissioners:
 - a. Carl S: He raised about \$5000 towards maintenance of the barns at Mountain View Farm; John Roe of Upper Valley Land Trust tried unsuccessfully to get Ray Clarke to oversee the work on the barns. (John Roe will be leaving UVLT at the end of the month.) David Bischoff got a large supporting beam and has installed or will install it in a barn.
 - b. Instructions about meeting minutes: Esther reports that only approved minutes will be posted on the Orford Webpage. Draft minutes will continue to be posted at the Town Offices
18. Motion(Tom/Ted) to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:12.

Respectfully Submitted,

Fran Plaisted and Emily Bryant