

**Orford Conservation Commission (OCC)**  
**Meeting Minutes: September 15, 2022**  
**Meeting held in person at the Niles Room in the Town Offices and via Zoom**

**Present in person:** Members: Ted Cooley (Chair), John Miller, Craig Putnam, Carl Schmidt, Harry Pease;  
 Alternate: Emily Bryant.

Member of the public: Marc White

Meeting called to order 7:00.

**1. Minutes of 6/16/22.** *Motion (John/Harry)* to accept the minutes of 6/16/22 as written. The motion carried.

**2. Invoices.**

**a. Water testing:** Ted paid the 13 water testing invoices From Eastern Analytical, Inc, for E Coli MPN, which were as follows:

Testing date	#Tests	Rate	Total
6/6/22	8	\$35	\$280
6/13/22	3	\$35	\$105
6/20/22	3	\$35	\$105
6/29/22	3	\$35	\$105
7/6/22	8	\$35	\$280
7/18/22	5	\$28	\$140
7/25/22	3	\$35	\$105
8/1/22	8	\$35	\$280
8/8/22	3	\$35	\$105
8/15/22	3	\$35	\$105
8/22/22	3	\$35	\$105
8/29/22	3	\$35	\$105
9/7/22	8	\$35	\$280
Subtotals	56	\$35	\$1960
	5	\$28	\$140
<b>Total</b>	<b>61 tests</b>		<b>\$2100</b>

**b. Mowing.** Ted paid Alan Dyke’s invoices for mowing the Richmond Conservation Land, which were:

Invoice date	Mowing Dates	Rate	Amount
7/11/22	5/19 and 5/30	\$40	\$80
7/6/22	6/15 and 6/30	\$40	\$80
7/29/22	7/14 and 7/29	\$40	\$80
8/28/22	8/12and 8/27	\$40	\$80
<b>Total</b>	<b>8 mowings</b>		<b>\$320</b>

**3. Water Testing.** Harry reported that water testing went well this year. John and Craig helped. In general, the E. Coli levels were pretty low. A couple were high in the ponds – right after rain.

**4. Invasives.** Marc White (who has special interest in control of Emerald Ash Borer) said that he is getting a pesticide license in NH – he will be certified to apply pesticides. He understands that communication with the public is important. He will also be trained in biocontrols.

**5. NH DOT re: Rte 25A along Jacobs Brook.** Chris Turgeon was in touch with the OCC, and they mowed only 15ft wide to avoid plantings in the area. There was some discussion of whether to replant trees/shrubs that were mowed down a couple of years ago. Harry has some willow on his land and Emily has some red osier; perhaps they could provide shoots from these for planting .Craig suggested it would be good that have an initiative with volunteers.

**6. Tillotson Falls Road - Japanese knotweed control** - John reported that someone drove over the area that was treated by smothering with plastic and mulch and we need some more mulch to repair it. The town did bring some more mulch

**7. Roads and Highways:** John reported that we missed coordinating with the town about mowing and knotweed. We need to connect with them next year. Craig mentioned the wood chips that were offered via the listserv earlier in the summer. People thought that it might not be good to use these since they might include invasives like knotweed chopped up in with the other chips.

**8. Orfordville Road culvert** – John reported that the contractor for this project has supply chain issues on the cement headwall.

**9. Water test results to the state.** John reported that he sent water test results to the state and that this was well received.

**10. Posting for high E Coli water test results.** John proposed the following motion (seconded by Harry):

*"I move that OCC volunteer to send out notifications in a timely manner when NH DES safe bacteria levels are exceeded at Indian Pond, Upper and Lower Baker Pond swimming areas. Notices shall be posted to the listserv (Google Group) and physically posted in a timely manner when following up with sampling at these locations IAW Water Testing for Bacteria in Surface Waters and Ponds, Adopted 11/25/2020 (see attached)*

*The Orford Selectboard shall be notified in their capacity as Acting Health Officer and encouraged to post these notices at Town Offices (paper copy) and on Orfordnh.us town website under "Notices" on the main page.*

*Additionally, OCC will volunteer to send out advisory notices to the listserv ([Orford@Googlegroups.com](mailto:Orford@Googlegroups.com)) when safe bacteria levels are exceeded at any additional sampling areas (Jacobs and Bracket Brook watersheds).*

*In all cases, postings will be updated / removed when safe levels are confirmed. "*

After some discussion (for instance, isn't this something the Selectboard should do? Does the OCC have the legal right to do this? Somebody should do it!), it was decided to table the motion, contact the Selectboard about it, and then reconsider the motion at a later meeting. Could Parks and Playgrounds help? John and Ted will follow up with (clarify: with whom? Selectboard or P&P?)

**11. FERC Dam licensing:** Ted will keep the committee posted about the process.

**12. NH DES** is putting on two Surface Water Quality training sessions online, one on 9/16/22 and one a week later.

**13. Looking for volunteers.** (clarify: for what OCC? Haz Mit ?) There is a committee revising Orford's Hazard Mitigation Plan; members include John Adams, Ted, and the Road Agent. They have met twice. Ted will send out (clarify: what? a copy of the plan?)

**14. OCC proposed budget for 2023.**

Ted proposed a level funded budget for 2023:

Water Testing: \$2670 (how should we budget for possible extra tests?)

Mowing: \$500 (Orford Conservation Land)

Legal Fees: \$300 (but amount needed depends on unknown circumstances)

Dues and Subscriptions: \$250

Advertising: \$120 (for hearing notices in the paper, and the Library Newsletter)

Mileage: \$100 (reimburse for water test travel)

**14. Other issues:**

Emily said it would be good to pull knotweed once more this summer. Craig said he could help. She also thought we should follow up about EAB.

John noted that we should mow the trails again at the Orford Conservation Land

*Motion(John/ Harry):* To adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm

Minutes taken by Emily Bryant.