



Approved Minutes of April 20,2023 Meeting
Held in-person at the Niles Room, Orford Town Office

Members Present: Ted Cooley, Craig Putnam, Harry Pease and John Miller (Alternate)

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. John Miller was seated as a voting member.
2. Minutes: Minutes of the March 16, 2023, meeting were reviewed. John proposed some changes to the Projects Update section. Harry made a motion to accept the minutes as changed, Craig seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved by unanimous vote.
3. Officers: Ted presented a slate of candidates for offices for the upcoming year. The slate was Ted Cooley for Chair, Bob Hedges for Vice-Chair, Fran Plaisted for Secretary with Emily Bryant as her alternate, and Emily Bryant for Finance Committee. Ted made a motion to accept the slate of candidates, John seconded the motion, and the candidates were approved by unanimous vote.
4. Water Testing: Harry reported that the summer water testing schedule of the three beaches and at sites along Jacobs Brook, Archertown Brook and Brackett Brook are confirmed, and Eastern Analytics, Inc., is scheduled to pick up the samples for testing and reporting. Craig has agreed to collect the samples on May 22 since Harry will be unavailable.
5. Projects update: John provided a written project update report prior to the meeting and provided a brief summary at the meeting.
 - a. Knotweed Control on Tillotson Falls Road: The tarp and bark mulch used to smother the knotweed was damaged during the winter. Some new shoots are emerging. Additional pulling and smothering work will need to be done.
 - b. Knotweed Pile Behind Town Garage: The large pile of knotweed stored behind the town garage needs to be moved to the burn pile in the sand pit. John will discuss with the Road Foreman.
 - c. Roadside Planting along Jacobs Brook east of Brook Road: NH DOT said they need a sketch of the area and what is intended for them to approve the planting.
 - d. Knotweed on Archertown Road: As the town prepares to do construction work on Archertown Road the Selectboard and Road Foreman need to be aware that there are State of New Hampshire RSAs that address proper disposal of invasive plants, and that impose monetary penalties for improper disposal. There is quite a bit of knotweed along the section of road that will be upgraded.
6. Trail Work at Richmond Property: Harry reported that he will organize a work session at the Richmond Property to do trail maintenance on April 29, 2023, with a rain date of April 30, 2023.
7. Events: Fran is working on a plan to obtain seeds and develop pollinator gardens. Some of the birding enthusiasts in town are planning a bird walk.

8. Recruitment: Ted asked that we all think about potential new members for the Commission to fill vacant positions.
9. Landfill Monitoring: A member of the Selectboard suggested that the Conservation Commission could take over monitoring the Orford Landfill instead of the contractor that currently fulfills that State of NH requirement. After some discussion, it was decided we don't know enough about what the monitoring requirements are in order to make a decision. Ted will contact Esther Dobbins-Marsh to learn more about it.
10. Adjourn: Harry made a motion to adjourn the meeting, John seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Harry Pease