

**Orford Conservation Commission (OCC)**  
**Final Meeting Minutes: May 18, 2023**  
**Meeting held in person at the Niles Room in the Town Offices and via Zoom**

**Present in person:** Members: Ted Cooley (Chair), Bob Hedges (Vice Chair) Alternates: John Miller, Emily Bryant. Fran Plaisted arrived part way through. No attendees via Zoom.

Meeting called to order 7:30pm. Emily, John, and Fran were seated as a members.

**1. Minutes.** *Motion (Bob/John):* to accept the minutes of 4/20/23 as written. The motion passed. We need to get copies of all minutes from this year to Esther. Bob and Emily will work on this.

**2. Trail work at the Orford Conservation Land.** Harry, Craig, and Emily met on April 29 and cleared the trail.

**3. Water Testing.** Craig will do the first water test on May 22 (Harry will be out of town.)

**4. Project updates.**

- Knotweed: John reported that he, Bob, Emily, and Harry have volunteered to work on knotweed control at the Tillotson Falls Road triangle and elsewhere.

- DOT/Rte 25A mowing: Chris Turgeon of DOT seems open to having the OCC maintain the road for the area greater than 15 ft from the highway. We need to give him a plan and map of the area OCC will maintain, and check with him about how tall the growth can get without reducing visibility.

- Marcus White is sending a note to the state about knotweed along Dame Hill.

- Emily suggested getting other townspeople involved in knotweed control, but John pointed out the difficulties in, for instance, disposing of knotweed cuttings. Emily will investigate getting knotweed information out to townspeople.

- Knotweed control party with above mentioned volunteers planned for Saturday afternoon May 20, weather permitting.

**5. Events**

- Birding: There was some talk about a birding event; no specifics at this point.

- Bob will check with Christie, who is on the UVLT board, about whether UVLT has a date planned for the Stargazing Party at Mountain View Farm.

**6. Recruitment.** A full board is 7 members and 5 alternates. We have 4 active members and 3 alternates at this point. Bob will see if the Delaneys have interest in being members.

*Motion (Fran/Bob)* to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm

Minutes taken by Emily Bryant.