

**Orford Conservation Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes: July 18, 2024**  
**Meeting held in person at the Niles Room in the Town Offices**

**Present in person:** Commission Members: Bob Hedges, Harry Pease; Alternates: Emily Bryant, and Fran Plaisted, and John Miller

Meeting called to order at 7:01 PM.

Fran Plaisted, Emily Bryant and John Miller were seated for the meeting.

1. **Review and approval of the meeting minutes from May 2024:** Harry motioned we accept minutes and Emily seconded. Motion carried.
  
2. **Presentation of a permit application regarding a stream restoration project (second-order tributary to Clay Brook) on the property of Tim Cook:** Presentation made by James Cook of Redstart Consulting. Project involves felling large trees into stream. Project covers approximately 1700' of stream. Lyme Conservation has approved the permit. Both NRCS and NH Fish and Game have approved the permit. Benefits include habitat and water quality and flood resilience. The felled trees help retain fine sediments, slow down the speed of the water, and this helps keep the stream bed stable and reduces the velocity of the speed of the stream. Fran Plaisted motions accept the permit, Emily seconded. Motion carried. Bob Hedges signed the approval for Mr. King.
  
3. **Invoices:** No invoices to approve.
  
4. **Water testing:** Update from Harry. Harry is continuing the water testing and sends the results to Orford Parks and Playgrounds, the Selectboard, all Conservation Commissioners, the State of NH, and the local summer camps. We recently had 2 "high" readings --- Upper Baker 578, Lower Baker over 200. Posted the "high" reading notice at Upper Baker and the following week at Lower Baker at the public water access. The "high" reading spotlights the concern about whether there should be a porta-potty at Lower Baker Pond. Decades ago, NH Fish & Game -town of Orford given responsibility to maintain the access points to the water. Parks and Playgrounds is going to look at getting a porta-potty deployed at Lower Baker. Craig Putnam is going to do the testing next week for Harry Pease. Cape Pemi is concerned about the water quality --- although they have not had high levels at the Camp, they are concerned about the readings at Lower Baker. When Harry next does the water testing, he will add Pond Brook (connector between 2 ponds) just for this week.
  
5. **Stargazing event:** We are scheduled for August 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup>. UVLT is our co-sponsor.
  
6. **Hike Orford!:** The Quinttown Lupine Hike on the Thomson Family property was a great success. We had an excellent turnout. Our next event is the Mount Cube hike on July 28<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM in the morning. We are meeting at the Rivendell Trailhead.
  
7. **Richmond Property Mowing:** Zach Parker to mow Richmond Property. Harry motioned we approve Zach Parker to mow path and parking area every two weeks at \$40/mowing. Fran seconded. Motion carried.

8. **Richmond Property trail maintenance:** We need to replace the trail signs as the homemade ones have disappeared. Harry can order signs 6 signs at \$15.99 each. Harry will attach to posts. Fran motioned that we authorize Harry Pease to spend upto \$120.00. Emily seconded. Motion carried.

We should promote the use of the Richmond Property. We discussed finding a birder to lead a tour in the appropriate season. Bob to follow-up with Ted Cooley for recommendations.

10. **Heritage Trail maintenance effort:** Will look at doing the work in the early fall (September) when the weather is less hot and more conducive to heavy chainsaw work. Bob will follow up with Andy to get a new date in September. We can then set a date and recruit volunteers.

11. **Collaboration with the Rivendell Trail Association:** An important opportunity exists to collaborate with the Rivendell Trail Association on the maintenance of the Rivendell Trail through Orford. More than 8 Orford residents attended the RTA meeting at the Lake Morey Inn in June. The RTA is looking for an endorsement and support from the Town. In September, we should invite the Orford RTA group to come to an OCC meeting for discussion.

12. **Japanese Knotweed:** John trying to continue and maintain our earlier work efforts. Our Tillotson Falls efforts have been successful. We are flagging the knotweed before the upcoming Town mowing. The Jacobs Brook location along 25A remains a work challenge.

13. **OCC Website:** Bob will undertake an updating effort in the fall when his work schedule calms down.

14. **Recruiting:** An ongoing need.

*Motion* (Harry/ Emily): to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:01

Minutes taken by Fran Plaisted

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