

West Fairlee Conservation Commission

Approved Minutes – Meeting of August 26, 2014

Attending: Fred Cook, Geoff Gardner, Ann Stephens, Jim Totin, Peggy Willey and Guests: John Boutin and Coeey Kearns.

The meeting began at 7:08 PM.

1. Minutes: It was moved, seconded and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the Commission's meetings of June 24, July 22 and the special meeting of July 31.

2. Treasurer's Report: As of July 31 the Brushwood Community Forest Fund showed a total of \$74,523.15 . This reflected new revenues as follows: LimLaw Deposit: \$1,000.00, Limlaw Stumpage \$904.06, Aloha gift: \$306.00 and Interest: \$3.00. As of the same date the Conservation Commission Fund showed a total of \$7,094.59 This reflected various inter-fund transfers and interest of \$00.27.

3. New Members: Coeey Kearns and John Boutin have both volunteered to join the Conservation Commission. We will present their names to the Selectboard. We are glad to welcome them both to the Commission.

4. Brushwood Community Forest: A) Former French property logging – Ann, Peggy and Geoff reported on their visit to the site Sunday, August 24. The job is scheduled to wrap up August 26. They reported on the size of the logging landing, the need to seed and mulch it, the slight rerouting of the Bald Top trail, the possibility of creating a new trail using the main logging road to form a loop with part of the Rivendell Bald Top trail and the need to seed and possibly mulch this road. They also reported on and showed photographs of the sculptures and cairns left by the loggers. Their recommendation to David Paganelli was to leave all these with the exception of the largest one with the boulder on top. This one they judged to be a potential liability.

B) It was moved, seconded and passed unanimously that the Commission may spend up to \$750.00 to seed and mulch the logging landing. John will contact the Blakes to see if they are able to do this and to learn what they will charge. Peggy will discuss with David Paganelli whether the much should be hay or straw. The issue is avoiding seeds of invasive plants if hay is used.

C) Right of Way issue – Geoff reported that Attorney Paul Gillies will be reviewing the deeds sent him by the Commission and those his paralegal has retrieved. He should be able to compose his letter to the Commission soon.

D) The STZ drafting committee is close to agreement on a draft of new STZ language to be sent to David Paganelli for his review before sending it along the Michael Snyder, Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation.

E) Brushwood trails – Peggy will talk to Guy about picking dates to begin work on Brushwood North trails. Ann will speak to Doug Tift about using Brushwood South trails for running and placement of signs.

5. Water: A) Peggy and Joan Allen of the Connecticut River Watershed Council (CRWC) met and discussed possible future projects and grants in West Fairlee.

B) Sara Cavin of the Upper Valley Land Trust (UFLT) has informed the Commission that the State's Ecosystem Restoration Program has awarded UFLT a grant of \$84,597 out of a total budget of \$95,947 for the two river corridor easement conservation projects in West Fairlee for the Dresser Farm and Odd Dog Farm. The Commission will have to raise the difference between the grant budget total and the grant amount over the next year. UFLT will help us do this.

C) The Watershed on Wheels program will be at Westshire School September 26 and at Thetford

Elementary School and September 24. The Squam Lake water program will be here on November 9 with critters related to water. Both programs are part of the joint educational effort of the Thetford and West Fairlee Conservation Commissions.

E) Cooley will be continuing to work toward creation of a “Best Practices Guide” for new property owners in West Fairlee. Various suggestions were made to help move this project along.

6. **Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.