

DRAFT

Calais Conservation Commission meeting minutes November 5th, 2014

Members present: Neil Maker, Drew Lamb, Stephanie Kaplan, Julie Hand, Pam DeAndrea.
Guests: Dan Singleton, County Forester; Larry Bush, Lakes and Streams Committee

Meeting began 7:05

October minutes: Discussed, revised, approved.

Conservation Fund: \$76,485.56

Forest Management Plans:

Brought Dan up to speed on management plans for Bliss Pond and Chapin Forests, updated in 2013. Bliss is overdue for cutting as it was last cut 20 years ago. Discussed potential options concerning access for Bliss Pond, and advantages/concerns around cutting. Chapin Forest has an issue with invasives, such as honeysuckle and Japanese Barberry. Dan emphasized that Town Forests should be seen as resources for educational opportunities, rather than relying them for revenue.

We decided to meet in December to review the management plans and talk about our goals and objectives for our forests. Neil will put together a list of books we may find helpful in making decisions. We will set these objectives, share with the town and then provide the opportunity for public input before we finalize our plans.

Lakes and Streams meet and greet/Town Plan discussion: Informed Larry of the process involved in writing the Natural Resources section of Town Plan, emphasizing our need for mandatory Riparian Buffers and Regulatory Guidance. Larry advised he would communicate directly with L and S about our needs. We will give Larry our latest version of NR plan.

Goals for Town Plan and Implications for our work - deferred to January meeting.

Watershed Grants: Discussed the possibility of applying for a Watershed Education Grant (administered by Fish & Wildlife and Dept of Environmental Conservation) to help fund NR inventory. These grants are \$5,000.00, and are due the end of November.

Stephanie will call Eric Hopkins (Grant Administrator) to see if we would qualify for such a grant. Pam will talk with Matt Peters about setting up a cost estimate for an NRI in alignment with the Town Plan.

Pam will set a budget for the NRI and submit to Selectboard for help with funding possibilities. She will also inquire as to whether we might use money from the Conservation Fund for the NRI.

Stephanie will email us Conservation Fund Guidelines and our commitment to the Friends of The Winooski's Lake Chaplain Basin Program Grant. Pam will be the liaison for this commitment

If we qualify for a Watershed Grant, Stephanie and Pam will work on the application.

Adjourn: 8:55