

Calais Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Old West Church; Bliss Pond Town Forest
Saturday, October 5, 2019, 9:30 am

Present: Stephanie Kaplan, Larry Bush, Julie Hand, Pat Johnson, Mark Brown

Absent: Drew Lamb, Neal Maker

Guests: Eric Sorenson; approximately 29 citizens of Calais, East Montpelier and elsewhere.

1. The meeting was called to order shortly after 9:30 am in the parking area at the Old West Church, on Old West Church Road. The group then walked to the public access trail into the Bliss Pond Town Forest.
2. For its annual Fall Foliage event, this year the Calais Conservation Commission hosted a discovery walk in the Bliss Pond Town Forest. It was led by Calais resident and the State of Vermont's Natural Community Ecologist, Eric Sorenson, a renowned authority on the ecology of Vermont forests. Calais residents and the general public joined Eric and five members of the Conservation Commission in exploring the beauty and variety of the town forest and in beginning a town-wide public discussion about what its future should be. A number of people who came had never visited the forest before.
3. At the end of the hike the members of the conservation commission discussed possible future activities regarding public participation in developing the future of the Bliss Pond Town Forest. It was agreed that the ***"Proposal to Create an Old Growth ('late successional') Forest Reserve in the Calais Bliss Pond Town Forest,"*** submitted to the Conservation Commission at its June 20, 2019, meeting be attached to the electronic version of these minutes.
4. The event ended at approximately 11:50 a.m.

Approved by the Conservation Commission at its 11/6/2019 meeting