

Calais Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Calais Town Office
February 13, 2018 7:00 pm

Present: Stephanie Kaplan, Drew Lamb, Larry Bush, Richard Maizell, Neal Maker, Julie Hand

Absent: Lou Cherry, Maddy Morgan

Guests: Hadarah Bock – minute taker, Denise Wheeler

Stephanie called the meeting to order at 7:07

- Agenda revisions or additions – Tree warden statute and Roadside Vegetation Assessment

Stephanie reported on the meeting of the Advisory Committee to the Rural Road Resilient Rights-of-Ways Vegetation Assessment. Joanne Garton is preparing maps that show different features that she has identified every ¼ mile along the roads. She is still working out the details and will continue her assessment in the spring. Joanne informed the group that the tree warden statute is being revised and Neal our Tree Warden should review it when it's publicly available.

- Minutes – approval was postponed until the next meeting.
- Conservation Fund Balance – Since the \$30,000 for the Armstrong Farm was paid, there is approximately \$54,000 in the Fund.
- Memorial Hall – members of the CC met with the Selectboard on February 12 to discuss the CC's recommendations for donating \$50,000 to the North Calais Memorial Hall Association for the purchase and renovation of Memorial Hall and maintaining the property for public use. Members of the Association were there, as well as Gus Seelig and Chris Cochran. The CC discussed its ideas for a commitment by the Association that the Conservation Commission would be involved in issues involving the site's natural resources. Selectboard members talked about some of the issues that need to be addressed through a conservation easement. The Association members indicated that the details including the maintenance of the property will be dealt with later, after they have raised the money necessary for the WRC to sell them the property.
- Coyote Killing - Conservation Commission members are concerned that Vermont law allows the killing of coyotes any time, despite the substantial amount of biological evidence that coyotes are not overpopulated or harming other animal populations. Fish and Wildlife Department hasn't done anything to protect them and

the Commissioner has indicated that they don't intend to. The CC continues to be opposed to the proposed coyote killing contests and Richard will draft a letter to House and Senate committees and members expressing the CC's opposition to these brutal contests.

- Town Plan Action Items – This was postponed again but will be the first item on the agenda at the April meeting.
- Implementing the NRI - landowner contacts – Richard will include his email as the contact for any landowners who respond to the letter.

The members decided to cancel the March meeting and to next meet the second Tuesday of April. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00.

Approved at the 4/10/2018 Conservation Commission meeting.