

DRAFT

CALAIS CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

September 9, 2015

Calais Town Office, 7:00 p.m.

Attending: Stephanie Kaplan, Neal Maker, Larry Bush, Drew Lamb, Julie Hand, Mat Barewicz (recorder), Grant Orenstein

Guests: Steve Cusick

- 1.) Public Comment - None
- 2.) Executive session for purpose of discussing real estate matter; no action taken
- 3.) August Minutes – Approved unanimously
- 4.) Conservation Fund Balance – \$74, 655.17 as of August 31, 2015
- 5.) Report from Aquatic Resources work group
 - a. Calais Lakes & Streams has been distributing informational material to new owners post property transfer
 - b. Group has been discussing with Ann Smith of Friends of the Winooski about contacting property owners on the Kingsbury Branch regarding stream bank restoration. Ann sent Julie names of the property owners.
 - c. Need additional information; ACTION ITEM – Julie to follow up with Ann
 - d. ACTION ITEM – Drew to contact the Eckhaus family about providing possible testimonial about the process
- 6.) Fall Foliage Bike/Hike/Paddle
 - a. Centennial year of establishing town forests
 - b. Event being led by and registration handled by Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program
 - c. Event on October 3rd, 9:30 am to approximately 1:30
 - d. Starting at Robinson Saw Mill, 10-12 miles includes stops and lunch at Adamant Store
 - e. Rain or Shine
 - f. Looking for presenters at stops – saw mill, Bliss Forest, East Montpelier Forest, Kent Corner, Gospel Hollow; contact Drew if interested or know someone
- 7.) Land Conservation
 - a. Armstrong Farm – possible grant proposal in the works; ACTION ITEM: Stephanie to follow up with Eric Sorenson
- 8.) Legare Farm – Jon Ramsay from the Vermont Land Trust and Pete Johnson will be at the 9/14 meeting of the Selectboard to discuss the Land Trust's purchase of the former Legare Farm now owned by Pete Johnson.

9.) Roads Advisory Committee update

- a. The road crew said they need more space between trees for plowing and clearing snow on Adamant Road between Lightening Ridge and Singleton Road. As a pilot project, members of the Roads Committee and Neal the Tree Warden walked the road identifying trees that can be cut and will be meeting with Toby and Alfred to review this.

10.) Removal of 3 Black Locust trees on Singleton Road

- a. Discussion about process to remove a tree within the right of way
- b. Discussion about organizing a Tree Committee to improve clarity within existing laws and to set up a process for planting trees in Calais

11.) CCC members to send names of property owners willing to allow Matt Peters on their property to investigate natural resources for the Natural Resource Inventory to Larry; ACTION ITEM: Larry to provide updated list to consultant Matt Peters on 9/14

12.) Town Plan

- a. Currently with Select Board and on agenda for 9/14 Selectboard meeting

13.) Other Business

- a. Bliss Pond – invasive species spreading due to road crew lowering the water level; Larry researching what can be done to raise the level to where it was before it was lowered

Next meeting scheduled for 10/7/15 at 7pm in the Town Office

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm