

# Otisfield Conservation Committee

## Meeting Minutes – Wednesday, 9/23/15, 7 p.m.

Present – Lee Dassler, Susan Feller, Bob Blake: OCC  
Otis Brown: Friend of OCC  
Bill Sprague, Mike Richards, Stan Brett: Representing the proposed  
Otisfield Trailblazers ATV Club.

1) Minutes- No minutes were available to review from the August meeting.

### 2) Old Business

a. Coon Rd. Swamp presentation – Set for Thurs., Oct.22 2015, 7 pm at Community Hall. Jean Hankins of the Otisfield Historical Society would like the OCC to speak about the ecology of the “swamp” and beaver pond. Jean will speak of the human history, Henry Hamilton his memories of growing up around the pond. Susan will contact Jeff Stern about his info. from winter water testing and exploring beaver habitat. Pixie will speak if she can make it to the program, she now lives in Topsham. Otis volunteered to be Pixie’s chauffeur for the evening; he will call Pixie and speak with her about the plans.

b. Western Foothills Land Trust (WFLT) – Lee said they completed Permit by Rule for Twin Bridges parcel. Inland Fisheries and Wildlife wants new culverts in place on streams by the start of spawning season in November. Open Space Institute willing to provide funding, but requires a huge data driven report with details related to climate changes in order to release funds. Gov. Lepage still will not release Land for Maine’s Future funds.

WFLT is offering hiking, biking and paddling treks at all its parcels this weekend during the Maine Great Outdoors Weekend.

### c. Pixie’s “retirement”

Since Pixie has moved in with her daughter in Topsham, Bob suggested the OCC pay tribute to Pixie’s years of conservation service and education to the community. Lee offered the OCC could purchase a conservation related book and donate it to Casco Library’s “conservation corner”, with a bookplate in it dedicating it to Pixie. Susan will contact Nadia Hermos of the Casco Conservation Committee for ideas about a book.

### 3) New Business

a. Maureen Howard is a new member for the OCC. She will attend the October meeting.

b. Bill Sprague and Mike Richards spoke to the OCC about their desire to form a legal ATV club in Otisfield. They explained their purpose, and asked the OCC for their input. They showed a detailed map of proposed trails to connect Lake Region trails through Otisfield to connect with Oxford trails. The ATV club would also have many members from the Otisfield Trailblazers Snowmobile Club. The OCC supported their quest, saying a club could increase responsible riding and cut down on damage to land and water. The OCC gave them the go ahead to proceed with the proposal.

c. Otis Brown volunteered to take the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program's lake training course to identify invasive water plant species. More volunteers will be needed on Otisfield's lakes/ponds since Pixie has retired and moved out of Otisfield.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Feller, Co-chair