

Otisfield Conservation Committee Minutes May 25, 2016

Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m.

Members Present: Susan Feller, Kristin Roy, Lee Dassler and Maureen Mooney-Howard.

Members absent: Bob Blake.

Motion to accept March 23, 2016 minutes as amended, seconded and approved.

Old Business:

Big Night: was Friday, May 13th.

Meeting schedule: Committee members feel that Tuesday or Thursday nights would be better for them than Wednesday night. Motion made and accepted to move our meetings to Tuesday nights every other month. Therefore, our next meeting will be Tuesday, July 26th and the meeting after that will be Tuesday, September 27th. Kristin will check with Anne to make sure that there is a room for us on those Tuesday evenings.

Western Foothills Land Trust update:

There have been two small harvests on Watkins South. Wood has not gone to the Mill as Mills are not doing well and loggers are holding on to trees because the price is so low at the moment.

There has been one harvest on the Oak Hill parcel.

Trails could go on the Green Lot. This lot has a lot of wetlands. WFLT has acquired Mitigation Fund money for this property. The property will be split in two with a portion being a working forest, and 150 acres as forever wild. This might be a place to have trails and programs. This property has a lot of vernal pools and resources that are worth protecting.

Fogg parcel connector getting appraisal.

Lee attended a workshop on climate change, Open Space Institute looks at the complexity of landscapes and watersheds to look at what needs to be protected.

Lee feels the place that OCC could be most effective is with the Twin Bridges. The harvest schedule will be on the northern portion this summer and southern portion this winter. This parcel is flat and has good access. A parking lot will eventually be put in. There is a small bit of frontage on Little Pond. Things that the OCC can help with now are assisting with a few events scheduled for the summer:

Saturday, July 30, from 9 to 11 paddle on Little Pond.

- Monday bird walks in August.
- Planning trails next spring.
- Start a dialog with the town about the benefits of having a community forest.
- We should look into having a speaker come and talk with the community about
- the benefits for our community. Julie Bernard from the Northern Forest Center
- may be a potential speaker.

New Business:

Maureen has taken over the weekly town walks from Jean Hankins. The walks are on Friday mornings, 9 a.m. in the winter and 8:30 a.m., spring through fall.

Pixy has asked the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP) to survey Moose Pond this summer. Ottis and Bob said they would like to take the course. Bob said he would do Pleasant Lake.

Motion to adjourn at 8:28 p.m.