



Town of Otisfield

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Otisfield Conservation Committee Minutes 03/28/17

Members present: Lee Dassler, Maureen Mooney-Howard and Kristin Roy

Guests: Gordon Chamberlain and Hal Ferguson

Called to order 7:17

Motion made to accept January 31, 2017 minutes; minutes approved.

Old Business:

Two Ponds Nature Preserve:

- Maureen mentioned that someone is dumping at the Two Ponds parking lot and offered to pass this information on to Danny Peaco.
- Maureen met with Bob Blake so that she could get a clear understanding of the history of the Conservation Committee's work on the property. She would eventually like to get our school children to come to the trails and learn about vernal pools.
- Lee mentioned that Mary Grace Barber is finishing up her second year of the Maine Naturalist Program. She may be interested in volunteering to host the students and show them around the vernal pools.
- Maureen has marked the trail using yellow diamond arrows bought on-line from Cross Country Ski Areas Association.
- Our Selectmen have offered to help us install benches and some kind of crossing over the stream.

Heniger Park:

- The diamond yellow arrows are up on the Howard Dyer Trail. The other trails will have different colored diamonds.
- Hopefully, Zizi Vlaun of Moose Pond Arts will be designing the logo for the brochure. An image of the "Sylvester Haunted Pine" might be a fun logo. Zizi has the map of Heniger in her computer and she also did the brochure for Two Ponds.

Greely Brook Clean-Up:

- Greely Brook - Earth Day is the 22nd of April. TLEA President, Marcia Matuska, is sending an email out to members asking if they will help with the clean-up. It is rumored that Fish and Wildlife will no longer stock the Brook unless the trash is out of the brook. We may have to push the clean-up off until end of May or beginning of June because of the ice and snow.

OCC Web page:

- The agendas and minutes for our Committee on our Town's webpage are now up to date.

Twin Bridges Trails:

- Lee is anticipating a grant for trails and a kiosk. Access to the trails will be three season. Trail work will be done by volunteers.
- We asked Lee to let our Committee know when and how we can help with the work.

Recycling:

- One of our Selectmen, Lenny Adler, is researching options for our town. Our present recycling contract ends on July 1, 2017. He felt that he did not need our Committee's assistance with the research. Possibly we can help with the educational piece once a decision has been made.

New Business:

New Committee Member:

- Gordon Chamberlain has submitted an application to be new member of the OCC. The Otisfield Selectmen have asked him to attend their April 19th meeting to discuss his application. (The Selectmen have made it a new policy to ask all townspeople asking to be on a town committee or board to attend a Selectmen's meeting to discuss their reasons for wanting to join and to be present when they vote).

Maine Association of Conservation Commissions:

- We received an invitation from MEACC to renew our membership. Maureen asked if this has been beneficial in the past. Both Lee and Kristin feel that they are geared toward the Coast and not relevant for us. Therefore, we decided to not renew.

2018 Recreational Trails Program:

- We have an invitation to attend their grant info session in Bethel on April 14th. Lee's advice is that we probably do not want to try for these Federal Grants as they are too time consuming and very competitive.

Stream Smart Road Crossing Workshop:

- Maureen attended the training sponsored by Maine Audubon on March 8th. It was very interesting and she feels that she has learned a great deal about the problems with many culverts and the benefits for fish and other wildlife when culverts allow their natural movement. She has some good reading material from the workshop if anyone wants to borrow it.
- Nutting Preserve – Lee provided us with her hopes for this property.

Adjourned 8:46 p.m.

Next meeting is May 30th

