Minutes from Craftsbury Conservation Commission meeting on March 17, 2025

In attendance: Diane Morgan (vice chair), Elinor Osborn, Farley Brown, Liz Keglor, and Molly Sease.

Public attendees: Finn, guest of Farley who will be attending meetings for the duration of the summer during a Sterling internship

Absent: Colin Netzley (chair), Nancy Milholland, Ken Menard

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm by Diane, filling in for Colin who was absent

New agenda items: none

Approval of March minutes - Liz moved to approve the minutes as written from the April meeting, Farley seconded, unanimous approval.

New Member search: Still searching a new member. There are two prospective members that the Commission is awaiting a letter of interest from.

Working Group Reports

Outreach Planning:

Bob Zaine and the 30x30 presentation: Diane reports that she has been in touch with Bob Zaine and he is willing to give his 30x30 presentation. The Commission agreed that if he is available on July 21, we will have our usual meeting that same evening after the presentation. Diane will reach out to confirm this date. If he is unavailable, we will advertise and plan for a date in September.

Farmer's Market tables: Nancy got approval for the Conservation Commission to have a table at the Craftsbury Farmers Markets this summer. Some weekends are themed and we will tailor our table to fit the theme. Molly and Liz will prepare a child-focused table in June.

"No Mow May": the Commission discussed this idea and how to best present information and educate the public on different ways to reduce the impacts of mowing on pollinator and native plant species. Will plan to discuss a month or so in advance of May 2026 to better prepare our social media posts.

Watershed Grant:

Elinor reports that all the native plants were planted by a crew of volunteers and that they seem healthy and are already leafing out. The JK is taking advantage of the planting slits and so we will need to stay on top of this throughout the summer by pulling and removing the roots of what we can. It is also coming up in the fascines, however this was anticipated and it is the hope that, per another study on willow fascines and JK, that eventually the willow will outcompete. The JK on the Cole Rd side, weed-eated by a volunteer last summer, also needs upkeep. Molly volunteered to weed-eat this every ~2 weeks/as needed to knock back the JK. Elinor and Liz will alternate mowing the roadside grass. Regarding planting native grass seed, Elinor purchased the seed and it was decided to wait until fall to sow as the native grass will have a greater chance of germination then. In the meantime, Molly will research if any of her saved

flower seed is native according. If so, will clear small patched of JK and sow immediately to help with erosion control.

Elinor set up a weekly volunteer time every Thursday at 4:30. May 22 was the first day. Members of the Commission are encouraged to attend as much as they can.

Per the road crew meeting attended by Farley and Colin, no new updates. The road crew is aware of erosion, but no mitigation has been done as of May 19.

Items for next meeting: June 16, 2025: Farley will discuss Act 181 and how it interacts with Act 250: 20-30 minute discussion. She would also like to discuss the date for a presentation on the Past and Future of Forest Management. Will also Discuss next Farmers Market table: is Colin willing to do an iNaturalist demo?

Diane adjourned the meeting at 8:04pm. Farley moved, Liz seconded.