Craftsbury Conservation Commission Meeting, October 20, 2025 Minutes

Attending: Diane Morgan, Elinor Osborn, Nancy Milholland, Molly Sease, Farley Brown
Absent: Ken Menard
Guests: Sterling College students including Finn Horak

Meeting called to order at 7:02pm.

1. September 15, 2025 minutes approved.

2. Congratulations to Farley Brown for her much-deserved honor in receiving the Municipal Service Award from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns.

3. Presentation from the Sterling Watershed class - Black River Bioassessment Report (the final report will be linked on the Craftsbury Conservation Commission Facebook page.

4. November 17th presentation - will be at Sterling Simpson Hall

- Forest Management in Orleans County - Past, Present and Future
- discussion around start time...agreed to start at 6:30pm
- Diane will email Robert Linck and Steve M. about Craftsbury Municipal Forest Committee co-sponsoring the presentation

5. Town website - check out the new website
- check over the CCC page and see if there are any updates

6. AVCC Regional Conference was attended by Nancy, Farley and Diane.

- Nancy gave an overview: Other Commissions are having difficulty attracting and retaining members. The schedule was circle discussion, three presentations: Knotweed control in the Missisquoi River Basin; Northern River Land Trust ; Lake Champlain Sea Grant Flood Resilience efforts

- Breakout sessions were very helpful. Diane went to "Conservation Commission Work Inside and Out." Some topics that we have addressed before and/or may want to include in future discussions include: how to attract and then bring on new members; sponsor projects and events that include families; coordinate with local schools; consider a non voting high school member; members should not be expected to work on all projects; importance of By-laws; a survey can be done on FPF asking what does the community feel is important for the conservation in town; Open Meeting Law says that there is no need to warn meetings of subgroups made up of less than a quorum; importance of a NRI; participate in the town parade; keeping time limits on agenda items; subcommittees can be made up of towns people not on the Commission;

7. Diane reported that the quarterly balance of Conservation Fund = $45,330.55

8. AVCC dues have been paid for the next year.

9. Knotweed Project Update by Elinor:

- drying rack is down (chicken wire is in Elinor's garage)
- weeding done for the season
- erosion fabric was holding moisture
- Blue flag iris and Joe pye-weed planted on Cole Rd.

- native grass seed with asters has been planted on TH19
- dug up remaining knotweed at the west end of the site
- only 6 hours of volunteer time from residents this summer; major help from Sterling students and COC
- the extra road fabric is now on the Cole Rd. Molly weeded before the fabric was put down (job well done!)
- Bruce Guillian is a new volunteer and is doing a good job
- need to plant purple flowering raspberry plants between the sycamore tree and the mowed lawn area
- the VT Fish and Wildlife grant runs out at the end of December, 2025; now need to continue with maintenance
- Diane and Elinor are working on signage for the plants

10.Diane shared a list of potential commission members.

11. Next meeting 11/17 will be the public presentation at Sterling College, Simpson Hall

12. December meeting 12/15 - draft of annual report (need pictures of knotweed, can include Trees for Streams workshop - past and present, Finn's iNaturalist workshop)

Other business: Nancy mentioned the Craftsbury Wellness Walk happening Saturday, October 25th at the Craftsbury Outdoor Center.

Adjourned 8:15pm

Submitted by,

Farley Brown