CRAFTSBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Conservation Commission's monthly meeting was called to order by Chair, Colin Netzley, at 7:05 p.m. July 15, in the Town Hall.

Present: Colin Netzley, Farley Brown, Elinor Osborn, Liz Kegler, Nancy Milholland, and Diane Morgan.

Absent: Eloise Gerard and Ken Menard

Added to the posted agenda was discussion of the Town Plan Update.

Motion made by Liz: to accept the minutes of the June meeting; seconded by Nancy; all voted in favor

Working Group Reports

Outreach: Liz announced that there would be two events planned for the remainder of this year, the first being a public presentation to meet the requirements of the Watershed Grant. **Nancy** has asked that our Facebook site be listed on the Town website and she **will post on Front Porch Forum asking Facebook and Instagram users to follow the Conservation in Craftsbury sites.** Commission members were asked to send Nancy any conservation information for her to post.

Motion made by Liz: that we sponsor a presentation as required by the Watershed Grant to educate the public about streambank erosion to take place the evening of August 19 in lieu of our monthly meeting.

Motion seconded by Farley.

Discussion: The format would be short informational talks on the history of the Knotweed Demonstration Project, the Watershed Grant, healthy stream water vs. sedimented, erosion control methods, mill history of the site, volunteer recognition, tour, and refreshments. The presentation will be at the access area with the tour and Q & A at the Knotweed Demonstration Site.

Time will be 5:30 to 6:30 and rain date will be the following Monday, August 26. **All members should plan to be present.**

Motion passed unanimously.

Natural Resource Inventory:

We reviewed the Policies, Goals, and Strategies language of the Maintaining Ecological Balance section of the Town Plan update. Farley explained in the new format there are three goals with various strategies or action steps written by NVDA and revised by this working group. It is

evident that the goals are broader in this section and the responsibility of the Town as a whole with specific duties of the Commission.

The need for including the importance of minimizing the risk of invasive species as a goal was noted. **Farley will add this and email the redraft to members.** In October, the Planning Commission will hold a public informational meeting on the new Plan.

Invasives

Elinor reported on the progress and needs at the Knotweed site and with the Watershed Grant requirements. There are an increasing number of gullies from road run-off. Jim Ryan will visit the site to give recommendations. **Colin will transport the erosion control fabric from Doug's to Elinor's garage.** Mike Rousell has offered 50 native rose plants for the area.

Open Meeting Law

Colin explained that all special meetings which would include Working Group sessions should be warned 24 hours in advance with agendas in two separate physical locations as well as on the Town website. Field work is exempt from this. The question arose as to how digging knotweed, a field activity, is different from organizing a public presentation or rewriting language or other actual working on a project outside the regular monthly meeting. **Colin will send members the State and Town regulations.**

New Member

Farley moved: to recommend Molly Sease to the Select Board for appointment to the Commission. Liz seconded the motion and all voted in favor. **Colin will give our recommendation to the Board.**

This meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m. The next regular meeting will be September 16.

Diane Morgan, Acting Secretary