Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
December 15, 2025

Members Present: Diane Morgan, Farley Brown, Nancy Milholland, Elinor Osborn
Members Absent: Molly Sease, Ken Menard Guest: Finn Horak

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. A motion to approve the minutes of the October meeting was made by Nancy and seconded by Elinor; all voted in favor.

Diane reported that our November panel presentation, FOREST MANAGEMENT IN ORLEANS COUNTY, PAST PRESENT AND FUTURE was excellent with about 27 people attending despite the snowy weather. Farley will get Jared's slideshow to make it pdf and share link with Nancy for our Facebook site as well as to put it on the town webpage. Diane had suggested to the Historical Society the possibility of having Farley give her historical slide presentation at one of their future meetings.

Motion Diane moved to have an article on the town warning: *Shall the town vote the sum of $7,000 for the Craftsbury Conservation Fund, money set aside for future conservation projects?* The motion was seconded by Nancy. Discussion: We should not increase the amount asked for. The tax appropriation each year is slowly growing the Fund. Michelle's calculations showing the amount of tax this comes to for various property assessments has shown that the Fund comes to $4 to $14 per property owner depending on value of property. All voted in favor of the motion.

Town Report We then worked together to get some notes drafted for our page in the Town Report and searched for potential photos to go in as well. Farley will compose a short paragraph on the Trees for Streams event; Elinor on the Knotweed Project; Diane on the Fund. Diane will draft the report and email it to members for edits. This is needed ASAP as it is due to Michelle early in January.

Looking to 2026: Election of officers will be at our January meeting. Members should consider serving as chair and secretary, even if it's on a rotating basis such as six months each.

In the spring, Farley and Finn will work on signage and Leopold bench for the ski trail at the riparian tree planting project area on the Black River. Jared Nunery has offered to help.

Diane will work on updating our webpage on the town website with anyone else who would like to help.

Membership recruitment will be a priority in the new year. In the meantime, Farley will reach out to Victoria L who has expressed interest in joining.

Next meeting: January 19.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm