Minutes from Craftsbury Conservation Commission

January 19, 2026

Members present: Diane Morgan (interim chair), Elinor Osborn, Nancy Milholland, and Molly Sease. **Members absent:** Farley Brown, Ken Menard. **Guest**: John Schwinghamer

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm

New agenda items: none

Approval of March minutes - Elinor moved to approve December minutes and Nancy seconded. Unanimous ayes.

Offices: The commission has been without elected officers, chair and secretary for some time now. Diane has been the interim chair for 6 months. The commission discussed options for what this could look like: rotating the chair responsibilities each month and co-chair options, both with their own challenges. Returned to the idea of a rotating chair position every 6 months until a member assumes the responsibility entirely. Diane will meet with Farley and write a “job description” for the chair position, and next meeting the commission will elect the first rotating chair.

Motion: Diane moved to change the term of chair temporarily to a 6 month rotating model in which each member serves 6 months excepting the secretary. The motion was seconded by Molly. All voted in favor of the motion.

Motion: Diane moved to table the election of offices until the February meeting. Nancy seconded the motion, and all voted in favor.

New member search: Commission has received a letter of interest from community member Victoria L, and the letter will be sent on to the select board.

Watershed grant report: With the last of the grant money, Elinor ordered 7 plant placards describing the native species planted at the JK site, and guest John, a GRP athlete at the Craftsbury Outdoor Center and volunteer with the commission, will attach the placards to the stakes. Placards will be installed in the spring and removed each winter to increase longevity of signs. Elinor reports that there is a surplus of $18 left to the grant, and that the final VT Fish and Wildlife Watershed grant report is due January 31, 2026.

Other discussions: Use of herbicides to control invasives: Other NEK conservation commissions are in discussion about the use of glyphosate to control knotweed. The Craftsbury Conservation Commission has not used herbicides to control and remove

knotweed at the JK site, instead focused on manual removal. One test demonstration of injecting stems with Rodeo was performed by a licensed herbicide applicator at the very beginning of the JK Demonstration Project. While other groups, like the Nature Conservancy, may use herbicides to control invasives, this is done with copious research and application on certain scales. The Craftsbury Conservation Commission does not plan to use glyphosate.

Wetland regulation in Vermont: January 14 marked the end of public comments on the proposed changes to wetlands regulations made by Gov. Phil Scott to increase areas for housing projects loosening restrictions on wetland rules in certain areas.

iNaturalist: Finn, frequent volunteer for the Craftsbury Conservation Commission, led an iNaturalist workshop in summer 2025. Discussed possibilities of another before Finn moves on in May. Spring bio blitz?

Social Media: Instagram continues to have low followers and we are simply not posting there. Discussed deactivating and deleting entirely. Nancy will continue to post on facebook. Reminded members to send her anything we would like to see posted.

Other news: the Craftsbury Public Library is hosting a presentation on the invasive jumping worm on February 15. Commission members expressed a hope and goal for 2026 to be more in sync and to coordinate and partner with local commissions and groups on relevant conservation efforts and presentations. Goals also include to invite the Forest Committee members to some of our meetings and learn more about what they do.

Next meeting February 16.

Meeting adjourned at 7:59pm.

Molly Sease