Minutes from Craftsbury Conservation Committee
3/16/2026

Present: Farley Brown, Diane Morgan, Elinor Osborn, Nancy Miloholland, Molly Sease, Finn Horak (guest)

Absent: Ken Menard, Victoria LaGuardia

Meeting called to order at 7:02pm

February minutes approved unanimously

Chair positions: The commission is seeking a new chair. Although usually a new member would not be nominated for the position, many members of the commission are interested in finding out if Victoria, the commission's newest member, would be interested in the position. Molly is willing to serve as chair but will be quite busy throughout the spring and into early summer. There was discussion about Victoria or another member serving as vice-chair while Molly is occupied.

Motion: The commission unanimously voted for Molly Sease as the next chair of the commission. Other members and possibly a vice-chair will assist Molly. Discussion about the vice-chair position will occur at the next meeting.

Town Meeting: Engagement efforts at the 2026 Town Meeting were discussed. The commission hosted a table and had a section in the town yearbook. It was difficult to know the number of people interested but at least three people gave their contact information. It was noted that attendees enjoyed the map the commission had at the table.

iNaturalist: Elinor reported that the town's iNaturalist project has been very successful, with over 6,000 observations. It was suggested that Finn could host another iNaturalist training session as a part of the University of Craftsbury courses. Finn committed to teaching a course and submitted an application.

Chimney swifts/new projects: The commission agrees that more discussion around new projects is needed. While the knotweed F&W grant is complete, the project is ongoing and will require yearly maintenance, including: pulling and digging JK from the stream bank, around our native plantings, and also along the roadside where we planted native grass seed. This will require volunteer and commission member help. It was agreed that the next meeting will focus mainly on discussing new projects. One project that community members have shown interest in is building Chimney swift nest towers. Jimmy Moffat possibly built a tower. More discussion on chimney swift towers will take place next month.

Engaging local schools: All members agreed that more engagement with local students, perhaps through the high school or eagle scouts? More discussion needed.

Land use: More cooperation between the planning committee and conservation committee is desired. Possibly the commission could host a presentation about changes to current use and other land policies that are changing.
Mission: There was discussion about refining the commission's mission and making it clear to the public. More coordination with other town committees is desired.

Website: Updating and reformatting the website will be a priority throughout the beginning of the year.

Sterling Legacy Map: The commission was shown a draft of the Sterling College Legacy Map. The idea of the commission's website hosting the map was floated.

Rabies: Updating the commission's social media with information about the rabies epidemic

Meeting closed at 8:25

Next Meeting is April 20th