

**Burke Conservation Commission  
Draft Minutes of the February 2016 meeting**

**Present:** Kevin Mack, Cathie Wheeler, Sue Leskin, Hank Butler, Chris Manges, Elise Lawson, Mark Maghini, Michelle Green, Joan Harlowe

**Guest:** Ben Copans

**Minutes of the January meeting** were approved with edits (Mark Maghini is remaining on the commission and Ross Stephen is interested in joining.)

**Water quality sampling:** Ben Copans, watershed coordinator for the VT Dept. of Environmental Conservation, discussed his draft report of the Commission's sampling of streams between June and November, 2015. The report showed that nutrient and sediment levels in Burke are generally low, although additional sampling at Dishmill Brook, Roundy Brook and Calendar Brook would be valuable. The Commission should notify James Kellogg of our interest in further sampling.

**Proposed projects;**

**Tree planting:** Hank learned that American Chestnuts are available, but are very expensive. American Elms are \$49 for a 10' tree, but are sold only in groups of 10.

A tree could be given to a family new to Burke, as a welcome gift, or a tree could be planted in honor of an outstanding citizen.

**Speakers:** Elise contacted Sue Morse about a talk at the Clubhouse. Her fee is \$500, although she has a grant which would make her talk on cougars \$250, plus travel. She is retiring at the end of this year, so won't be available after 2016. Other speakers suggested: someone from Northwoods, Chuck Fergus, who is a Burke resident and author of numerous books on nature.

**Scholarships:** We could offer a scholarship to a Burke student to go to a week-long nature oriented summer camp, such as those held at the Northwoods Stewardship Center, and Siskin Coutts. The scholarship would pay part of the cost, and could be offered annually.

**Next Meeting: March 16.**

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Harlowe