

Burke Conservation Commission –Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2019

Present: Hank Butler, Ric Prescott, Chris Manges, Sus Leskin, and Elise Lawson

Absent: Kevin Mack, Cathie Wheeler, and Joan Harlowe

Minutes: The minutes from our March meeting were approved.

Green up Day – May 4, 2019: Bags will be delivered to the Town. Chris has the signs and will put them out.

Riparian Planting – May 8 – 11: There are many volunteers, which is great, but the more the merrier. On May 8th, there is a pint night at the Burke Public House to celebrate the start of the planting blitz.

Speaker Series: Judd Kratzer, Fishery Biologist with VT Fish and Wildlife, talked about brook trout habitat restoration on April 9, 2019. It was very informative and well attended given the snow storm. Hank will talk with Ben Copans (Passumpsic Watershed Plan) and Matt Langlais (Emerald Ash Borer) for future presentations.

Pete's Pond Property: Hank went to a select board meeting to discuss Pete's Pond. The select board (and members of the public in attendance) were very supportive of the Town owning the parcel to be conserved and used for education. Next steps to continue moving forward are:

1. Hank will write to the Ulmers to determine if they are willing to drop their price or even donate the land.
2. Hank will call Gordon Ulmer to see if he will allow us to walk on the property for a cursory inventory. Inventories are an important piece when applying for grants to purchase the property.
3. We will conduct an inventory of Pete's pond property early June 2019 once we have permission from the Ulmers.

Hank is resigning from the board in after our June 2019 meeting. We are looking for new members and need to consider who will take over as chair.

Meeting adjourned 7:00 pm

Next meeting May 15, 2019 at 6:00 pm Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Elise Lawson (filling in for Joan Harlowe)