**Newbury Conservation Commission Meeting**

**(Unofficial) Minutes 2/19/2019**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 in the Baldwin Library.

Attendees: Mike Thomas and Dianne Norton

Guests: Tom Kidder and John Nininger

**Town Report:** The $800 requested new budget includes a $200 increase. Mike foresees some of this money being used to support a Trail Symposium to discuss ideas for town trails with interested residents.

**Newbury Town Properties:** The SelectBoard has tasked the Conservation Commission to looking into the best use and recommendations for the current town properties of Rogers Hill, John’s Way, and the Ski Tow parcel. Dianne has much information on these sites, obtained through previous research while serving on the Town Forest Management Committee. She will pull out her files and share pertinent items.

**Tucker Mountain Update:** Progress of the Tucker Mountain Town Forest Management Committee was reported, noting that there had only been one meeting thus far. Minutes had been distributed earlier. An error in the minutes was noted.

**Additional Tree Planting on Wells River Conservation Land:** There has been expressed interest in additional planting in areas where over 2,000 seedlings have been previously planted. Mike will follow up with Steve Mortillo at White River Natural Resources Conservation District and provide an update.

**Town Meeting:**  Mike will set up an NCC display, while Tom Kidder will set up a trifold showing the effects of erosion on Tucker Mountain.

**NCC Meetings:**  The SelectBoard expressed concern about our recent sporadic meeting schedule, which has mostly been due to snow and ice storms falling on our meeting dates.

* The idea of remote access to facilitate timely meetings was once again discussed. It was decided that Chelsea would be asked to look into possibilities to make this happen, because of her technical expertise. Perhaps a small grant could be obtained to fund any equipment expense, if necessary.
* A discussion ensued about recruiting additional members. We’d like to see more members to cover additional areas of the town.

**Other Business:**

* A Conservation Fund was discussed and whether Tucker Mountain should have its own fund versus a sub-account. Language addressing the usage of funds needs to be developed.
* The Conservation Commission By-Laws need updating.
* John expressed interest in joining the Commission; we’ll revisit formalizing this in March.
* Tom mentioned that the Woodchuck purchase option for the Town will expire on May 31st. A brief discussion ensued.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10.

Submitted by:

Dianne Norton, NCC