

## Otisfield Conservation Committee

### Meeting minutes – Wednesday, May 28, 2014 – 7pm.

Present- Pixie Williams, Lee Dassler, Bob Blake, Susan Feller: OCC  
Nadia Hermos: Casco Conservation Commission, Otis Brown: OCC Friend

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Minutes from April were read, corrected and approved.
3. Old Business – Nadia updated everyone on the Casco/Otisfield invasive plants seminar, showed the fliers she has designed, and read the press release. Emails will be sent to the Friends of OCC, land trusts, and newspapers containing the information on the seminar.
  - a) Two Ponds Nature Area – Bob updated everyone on the signs being installed, paint blazing the trails, and the trail walk w/ the selectmen. All should be done by the end of the month. Bob and Lee did GPS readings on Mother's Day, and found a large vernal pool full of egg masses by the parking area.
  - b) MEACC – Pixie and Nadia reported on attending the annual Maine meeting of conservation commissions. The featured speaker, who is a trail builder from Bethel, presented a fascinating look at all that goes into considering siting and building of trails, from aesthetics to construction materials.
  - c) Pixie reported on the status of the articles she wrote for the OCC webpage.
  - d) Community forest – Lee reported on the petition drive for town warrant, so far only 50 signatures, need 121. Lee found out tax rate may be going up, making it hard to get 5,000.00 for the matching grant. WFLT has applied to several grants and foundations. Lee handed out the WFLT event schedule and posters on Crooked River Lands in trust.
  - e) Pixie reported on Coon Rd. Swamp. The vernal pools have not shown much amphibian activity, possibly due to the weather. She contacted Inland Fisheries and Wildlife; spoke with Brad Zitske about protecting the pond.

Signs banning beaver trapping have been posted. Also, no commercial frog trapping is allowed, it's ok to trap Shiners. Henry Hamilton and Lloyd Grover both keep a watch on the pond. Lee said she would be willing to work on protecting the land around the pond.

4. New Business – a) reviewing town land foreclosures – Swampville Rd. has approx. 100 acres. Table till next meeting.

b) Pollinators – Pixie spoke about the loss of Bumblebee populations, the Xerces Society has info. on line. Pixie will write up info for the OCC webpage regarding the issues. Lee said the USDA is offering stipends to people to not mow their fields until the end of summer.

c) Possible joint event with the Otisfield Historical Society about the history of Coon Rd. Swamp, with Henry Hamilton, for 2015.

d) Improve the look of OCC mission statement- table till next meeting.

e) June 25 – Paul Hunt will speak at Town Office, prior to the regular OCC meeting, about Crooked River conservation. Lee will get publicity done, Susan will email Friends of OCC.

f) Camp Arcadia has its centennial in 2015. Susan suggested having info on the webpage; ask Anne and Jack Fritz to write up a brief history.

Meeting adjourned at 9pm. Next meeting will be June 25, at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Feller, secretary