

Otisfield Conservation Committee

November 19, 2014

1. Call to order: 7:08
2. Welcome & Introductions
3. Members present – Jeff Stern, Lee Dassler, Bob Blake, Susan Feller, Kristin Roy, and Pixie Williams
Welcome – Otis Brown, Friend of OCC
4. Minutes from September and October Motion to accept the minutes, minutes accepted.
5. Old Business
 - 5.1. Motion to have Susan and Pixie to co-Chair the OCC. Motion made and Seconded, all agree.
 - 5.2. Western Foothills Land Trust– Crooked River Project: will be finalized December 31, 2014.
 - 5.2.1. Timber harvest plan: The land trust will need to have a timber harvest in order to attain their funding goals. This will happen in the new year.
 - 5.2.2. Trail planning: In the spring we can look at the potential for future trails.
 - 5.2.3. There is a significant growth of pitch-pine on the Watkins South parcel. We will be looking for endangered plants in this area in the spring.
 - 5.3. Twin Pond Nature Trails : Additional items for kiosk: The OCC will dedicate the kiosk to Bob Blake (BB). BB Would like to know about placement of benches on the trail. Bob will give a list of possible placement options of benches along the trails to the Select Board.
 - 5.4. Coordinate availability of Dr. Buckley w/ reserving the Community Hall next summer for education event about ecological impacts of water levels. OCC has no commitment on a date as of yet. Dr. Buckley would like to speak on dam management, and the browning of our waters. Possible times we should look into is on a Wednesday in July. Pixie would like to possibly offer this as a Combined lake forum. We should speak to the Select Board about the possibility of town money for stipend for Dr. Buckley.
 - 5.5. Continue to work with Otisfield Historical Society on 2015 program about Coon Road Swamp. Jean will let Pixie know when she has a date in mind.
6. New Business

- 6.1. Recycling and Transfer Station: What happens to our recycling? Are there ways to encourage better recycling? What do other towns do, single stream vs Sorting? What are the pros and cons.
- 6.2. Pixie informed us about a Pesticides Ordinance passed in Ogunquit with the leadership of the the Ogunquit Conservation Commission. This was done to protect our pollinators. Pixie would like to put information on the town website informing people of the need to protect our pollinators by encouraging people not to use pesticides.
- 6.3. The OCC would like to ask the Selectmen for an annual fund for the committee.
- 6.4. Aquatic plant issue in Moose Pond native to the area (ask Pixie for this info)
- 6.5. Jeff mentioned he would like us to know about MEAC project canopy grant.
- 6.6. Lee thought we should be aware of a wonderful web sight worth looking at – mainlandusefutures.org
7. Other Business
 - 7.1. Kristin informed the committee that there was not a formal vote on the OCC's request to have the committee informed of a telecommunications project so the OCC can offer written input on the Planning Board. The OCC will write a letter requesting a vote.
8. Motion to adjourn at 9:05pm, seconded, all agree.

**Thank you Jeff for all you have done for our community
We will miss you!**