

8/29/23 Conservation Committee Meeting from 7:00 to 8:30 pm at the Otisfield Community Hall

In attendance: Maureen Howard, Lee Dassler, Mike Thorn, Jen Blastow. Not in attendance: Storm Field, Chloe Grover, and Kristen Roy

- Minutes from 6/27/23 meeting were approved

Old Business:

- Discussion of the washout at the trail at Two Ponds Nature Preserve. Maureen and Hal walked the trail. It is unclear where the water is coming from to cause the washout-not clearly a stream crossing. Need to determine if this is a wetland. Will contact Kristin Puryear at the Maine Natural Areas Program in Augusta: 413-313-4719
- Discussion of updating our watershed pamphlet. This is being revised. Grant money from 1st Resilience Committee project funding revision. Lee will review new draft of Protecting Otisfield's Watersheds. David Randall, the president of the Parker and Pleasant Pond Association has also made revisions to the pamphlet. Meredith Sasser will assist with set-up of the revision. Planning to keep the same size 8 1/2 x 5 1/2 vertical and hoping to add more color pages-depending upon cost of the printing color.
- Mike confirmed that the Otisfield Ordinance for resource protection of the Crooked River is 250 feet set back from the river. It is 250 feet setback for all bodies of water in Otisfield.
- 2nd Resilience Committee Grant: Maureen updated us on this second round of funding. The group has not heard if they received the funding and should have notification by 9/7/23. Claire at CEBE is the contact about the grant funding information.

New Business:

- WFLT update on MaKay parcel: Lee gave us an update on this parcel of land on Moose Pond abutting Two Ponds Nature Preserve. The owners approached WFLT about purchasing this parcel and putting it into conservation. The land needs to be surveyed and determination made about what parcel to consider purchasing. Options for funding: designating it a community forest and Land for Maine's Future program would pay 1/2 the cost if there is public access allowed including trapping and hunting.
- The Little Pond Stream on Rt 117 was flooding due to Beavers filling culvert. DOT acted quickly and cleared the culvert.

Other Business:

- Maureen will talk further with Storm about Storm's idea of having a second road side clean-up in the fall. Currently, committee members at this meeting did not feel it was feasible at this time to set-up another clean-up at the same level as the spring cleanup.

Adjourn:

- Next meeting October 24th, 2023 from 7:00 to 8:30 at Community Hall.