



## Town of Otisfield

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### **Otisfield Conservation Committee Minutes 2/26/19**

Members present: Marc Coriveau, Lee Dassler, Maureen Mooney-Howard and Kristin Roy

Meeting called to order at 7:09

We had approved the minutes of 5/22/18 and 3/27/18 meetings by email previous to this meeting.

#### Old Business:

##### Twin Bridges Trails update:

- Because cold weather came early this year and the ground froze earlier than usual, Lee was not able to get the trail signs in the ground. The trails have been named after noted Otisfield residents. There was a nice group that attended the opening of the trails in December and most of us walked the Hankins Trail. Lee will be planning a work day in April or May – depending on snow melt – and will let us know the date.

##### Fogg Lot:

- Management plan is on hold pending the hiring of WFLT's new consultant supporting their conservation easement programs. Their previous staff member, Matt Markot, is now the full-time Executive Director of Loon Echo Land Trust.

##### Heniger Park Trails update:

- Maureen's goal is to finish up all work at Heniger this spring and early summer. All trails have been marked with different colors. Some additional trail signage is needed, new maps are needed as the colors of the trails have been changed, and 12x20 metal signs need to be ordered to match the signs that we have for Two Ponds Nature Trails. We voted that the signs will state that no ATV's or motorcycles are allowed on the trails and that snowmobiles should be on the designated trail only.

##### Two Ponds Nature Preserve update:

- Maureen has had signs made up to post on Deer Run Road that will point to where townspeople can launch their canoe or kayak. There are also two signs that will be posted where people can park their vehicles. The signs will go up in the spring.

#### New Business:

- Vernal Pool presentation – Last year, Scott Lindsay of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife did a presentation for our 6<sup>th</sup> graders on May 15<sup>th</sup>. They also traveled by bus to Two Ponds Preserve and the vernal pool was loaded with tadpole and salamander eggs. Maureen has contacted the 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Ruth Wilson, asking if we should schedule this program again this year. Ruth is interested and will get back to Maureen with some dates.

- Earth Day clean-up – Our Committee discussed the possibilities of scheduling a town clean-up. Earth Day is on Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, this year but does not fall on school vacation week. We talked about how to get our Community School children involved knowing that the school system will not allow them to be on the roads. We decided that Maureen will speak to Hal Ferguson about our Committee teaming up to do a road clean-up. Hal is a member of the Spurrs Corner Church and their members have done a road clean-up in the recent past.
- Hadley Couraud of The Nature Conservancy has contacted Lee about coming to Otisfield to talk about our town's current road-stream crossings status (culverts). We decided that a Selectmen's meeting would be a better venue than our Conservation Committee meeting. Lee will speak to Hal to see if the Selectmen are interested in us scheduling this.

Other Business:

- New members needed – Maureen offered to speak to Laurie and John Phillips to see if one (or both) of them is interested in joining our Committee. We also discussed the possibility of having one or two summer residents join as non-voting members. Lee mentioned two people that have expressed an interest in the past.
- Information for this year's town report will be needed soon and Maureen will let the Committee know when she hears from Anne Pastore.

The meeting was adjourned 8:16 p.m. Next meeting is April 23, 2019