



## Town of Otisfield

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### **Otisfield Conservation Committee Minutes 6/25/19**

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

Meeting called to order at 7:10

Motion made to accept minutes of April 23, 2019 made by Lee and seconded by Marc; minutes approved. Kristin Roy abstained.

#### Old Business:

Welcome to our new member – Laurie Phillips.

- Laurie was not able to attend our meeting as she had a work conference out of town.

Twin Bridges Trails update:

- WFLT volunteers are digging the holes for the remaining signs that need to be installed. Trout Unlimited staff have taken some pictures for use in promoting the new trail system. There is, unfortunately, ATV damage to some of the trails. They seem to be driving in from the south – off the Old County Road that goes by Little Pond. Lee contacted the head of the Otisfield ATV Club and she said that her members were not the riders responsible for the damage. Lee and staff are discussing what to do to stop the ATVs from entering the trails. Maureen mentioned that the Otisfield Friday walkers recently walked the Old County Road and she was dismayed at the ATV damage on that road.

Sebago Clean Waters and the Maine Brewshed Alliance:

- These two organizations have teamed up to protect the Sebago Lake watershed through voluntary forestland conservation. This partnership is responsible for the protection of 35,000 acres in the Sebago Lake watershed.

Scribner Lot:

- WFLT has completed the purchase agreement for this 45 acre parcel off Oak Hill Road and it will be protected by January. This parcel has 11 acres of wetlands along the Crooked River – great news for wildlife!

Two Ponds Trail update:

- Danny Peaco is building a small bridge over the stream. Presently there are rocks to step on when crossing it but they can get very icy/ slippery during the spring and late fall. Also, Maureen has contacted Hal to ask that our road crew be mindful of the trail head when plowing and removing snow this year.

Vernal Pool Presentation:

- Due to the uncertainty around the School District's new field trip policy regarding students in and around water, this project did not happen this year. Maureen has spoken to Patrick Hartnett (Assistant Superintendent) and is fairly confident that we can make this work next spring.

Update on assisting Hadley Couraud and Josh Royte of The Nature Conservancy with current

conditions of Otisfield's road-stream crossings (culverts).

- The town has found that many of our culverts have already been updated/ improved since the Nature Conservancy did their assessments 8 – 10 years ago. Mark is continuing to take pictures of culverts that may not be updated and reporting his data to Anne Pastore who will in turn pass on the information to The Nature Conservancy.

Otisfield Town Clean-Up feedback:

- We received many positive comments and some good suggestions. All respondents asked that we continue this project yearly.

#### New Business:

- Would our Committee like to become involved in the Maine Bicentennial? Lee has some great suggestions if we do and suggested that we try to get some help from a couple of Bates students. "Which species were in Otisfield in 1820, which have gone extinct or have migrated out of our region?" "What was the population distribution and the crops and sources of income in 1820 and now?" When Otisfield became a state, what habitats/ resources were ceded to form Naples and Harrison and why?"
- We did not come to a definite decision about our possible participation but we did not have a member who volunteered to take this project on.

#### Other Business:

- Maureen asked what the Committee members would like to do about scheduling summer meetings and activities. Hal had mentioned to her that most town committees do not meet during the summer. We agreed that we would not meet during the summer months and if anything comes up, we will discuss it via email.

The meeting was adjourned 8:20 p.m. Next meeting is September 24, 2019