Conservation Commission Minutes 14 Feb 2024

Present: Paul Shriver, Chair; Linda Morse; Gina Logan

A quorum being present, the meeting began at 7 pm. No members of the public were in attendance.

Old Business

Paul has consented to continue as Chair. He will solicit new membership at Town Meeting and ongoing. Gina will continue to serve as Secretary.

Paul has emailed Joanne Garton of FP&R re: pursuing the canopy grant.

(Joanne suggests we plan in March and April to choose a stretch of town road and identify its ash trees pursuant to removal and eventual new tree plantings.

Joanne suggests Marlene Eddy of VSU (formerly VT Teach) and her students for possible help in May. This work would qualify as part of the match that the Town must provide as a condition for the grant.

(The details of the above work and conditions can be found in the copy of grant materials that has been provided.)

Joanne will assist us with the pre-planning process and how to do a proper inventory.

Paul will consult with Joanne re: timeline. He will get this all to her so she can put us on her calendar.

New Business

Linda observed that the collection at the Historical Society might be something for the Conservation Commission to assist with. Paul will ask Larry Burns about that.

Paul mentioned that one of the maple trees at the cemetery by the Meetinghouse (one that was planted under the auspices of the BCC several years ago) has died; shall we work on replacing it?

The members discussed the project on Thayer Brook Road (control of knotweed, chervil, etc.) and regretfully concluded that, as the project has not been continued, it is probably time to retire it as an active pursuit by the BCC at this time.

There was some discussion of future seminars and presentations. Gina suggested one on possums, which are now present in breeding populations in Vermont and thus are here to stay. She noted that they eat ticks, do not carry rabies, are not

predators, and are North America's only native marsupial. Is this not a good time to educate ourselves about these remarkable but little-understood animals?

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm. Next meeting: April 24.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Gina Logan