Minutes are in DRAFT form until approved at the next meeting

**TOWN OF WINDHAM, VT**

**CONSERVATION COMMISION**

**Minutes of October 15, 2019 Meeting**

Present:

Alison Trowbridge, Chair; Ginny Crittenden, Dawn Bower, and Ellen McDuffie, Conservation Commission Members

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by Alison Trowbridge

No minutes to approve

Additions to Agenda

Dawn could not open the agenda in her email. No additions or deletions made.

Tribute to Hal Wilkins

The death of our chair, Hal Wilkins, was acknowledged. Hal’s memorial service was well attended, and the minister knew Hal well and was very good. Where do we go from here? Hal was so motivated and energetic. We discussed various ways to honor his commitment to Windham, and decided to plant a tree next year, possibly a flowering tree or shrub, near the Town Office in his memory. Alison suggested a native plant such as a shadbush (*Amelanchier sp****.).*** Alison will check with the Selectboard for a budget for 2020. We will also consider naming a trail in Windham for Hal in the future.

Plan for presentation of Monica Przyperhart’s Final Presentation on Community Values Mapping Project

All is set for Monica Przyperhart, to present the results of the Community Mapping Project on Tuesday, November 19. Alison will contact her to set the time. We will announce it to the community and hold the presentation at the Meeting House. It will be open to all. Please bring cookies or snacks and juice. It will be announced in *Windham News & Notes*, by email blast and on the town website.

Review of Current Projects

Beaver Deceiver – The “Deceiver” was installed 2 years ago. Dawn met with Skip Lyle recently and brought up her concerns of missing rocks and level of pond. It was unclear whether rocks had been replaced. They will meet again in the spring to see about raising the water level, and how well the beavers are being deceived. There has been some limited beaver activity, and two otters, observed in the pond this summer.

Invasives - Invasive wild chervil, wild parsnip and Japanese knotweed are spreading in Windham. Efforts were made this past summer to begin control measures by instituting a mowing program to cut back on the spread of these plants. It will take several years of conscientious mowing to even begin to eradicate them. Alison mentioned that California has a “Lupine Bashing” event in the spring to work on eradicating invasive lupine. She suggested that we have a work day, or two, in the spring to pull and cut wild chervil before it seeds in late May- June. It blooms white, before Queen Anne’s Lace. Alison knows of wild chervil on much of Windham Hill Road, West Windham Road, Golding Road, Burpee Pond Road and some on VT Route 121. There is also some Wild Parsnip (blooms yellow) on Golding Road, which should also be cut before it seeds. There was a short discussion of Knotweed, especially on Popple Dungeon Road and Route 121 to Grafton, but previous efforts to control it have not been very successful.

Horsetail (scouring rush), which has silica in the stems, was also mentioned as an invasive in Windham.

Emerald Ash Borer – Ginny reported that the Emerald Ash Borer has been found recently in Londonderry. Ellen reported that they have lost a number of ash and suspect the ash borer.

Observations - Dawn, Ginny and Alison all reported a significant number of ticks, especially the tiny deer ticks, out now. We have all seen a bumper crop of Monarch butterflies this year. The weather has provided optimum conditions, plenty of rain early in the season and cooler temperatures. It was mentioned that Montauk or Nippon daisies are late bloomers and the bees really like them.

Membership - Alison agreed to check with Diane Newton and Ginny will check with BJ Davis concerning their membership on the Commission.

Next Meeting – Our next meeting, following the November 19 presentation by Monica Przyperhart, will be Tuesday, March 17 at 7 PM in the Town Office. No meeting in December, January or February.

Motion was made to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 8:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Ellen McDuffie