

Tunbridge Conservation Commission - October 21, 2019 - Tunbridge Library
Draft Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Ellen Hosford, Brenda Field, Susan Salster, Maureen McCullough, Aaron Weed, Betsy Gaiser, Eliza Minnucci.

Called to order at 6:30pm.

Betsy reported Eliza and Ellen have been appointed as TCC members by the Tunbridge Selectboard as of their last meeting.

Ellen nominated Betsy for chair. Eliza seconded. Betsy Gaiser approved as chairperson.

Eliza nominated Ellen for treasurer. Betsy seconded. Ellen Hosford approved as treasurer.

Betsy nominated Eliza for clerk. Aaron seconded. Eliza Minnucci approved as clerk.

Walking Guide Funds

Betsy proposed that funds raised from the sale of Tunbridge Walks be used by the library to sponsor a Winter Evening event in January with Steve Faccio who will speak on vernal pools. Motion was approved.

Christmas Bird Count

A member of the Randolph Conservation Commission would like help distributing information about the annual Christmas Bird Count, as the Western half of Tunbridge falls within the Randolph bird count circle. It was decided we would support the dissemination of Christmas Bird Count information.

Big Trees Project

Brenda Field proposed an idea of the TCC putting on a winter Big Trees Inventory - a friendly competition to learn about the biggest trees in Tunbridge. The TCC and those present discussed timing, organization and felt positive about the project.

Action to be taken: Brenda and Eliza will work together to develop a document to record biggest tree entries, determine timing and prizes. They will report back with plans at the November TCC meeting.

Tunbridge Walks Steps Forward

Following up on encouragement from others, Ellen proposed leading walks following some of those in the Tunbridge Walks guide, at a time citizens might be able to try them out. Perhaps this would take the form of a monthly walk, the weekend following the TCC meetings, beginning in May.

Action to be taken: Ellen and commission will revisit “Discover Tunbridge Walks” at April TCC meeting.

Trails at TCS

Eliza reported having spoken briefly with two Tunbridge Central School staff about the possibility of supporting trail work behind the school. Permission would have to be received from the landowner to extend and improve trails there. The two school staff members indicated interest in developing more use of the forest behind the school.

Action to be taken: Eliza will continue conversations with school staff.

Town Forests

Brenda Field reported about plans and activities in the Town Forests.

The Western Ridge

Betsy led a discussion about the natural resources along Tunbridge’s western ridge.

Action to be taken: Betsy will get in touch with the Vermont Land Trust, and the Northeast Wilderness Trust to learn more about what they might have to offer to a conversation about western ridge conservation.

Planning Commission Assignment

The Planning Commission has requested the TCC’s help in cleaning up the First Branch. TCC can work with Dan “Rudi” Ruddell, the White River Watershed Partnership and local youth to do some clean-up projects in the summer of 2020. Cleaning up, mitigating Japanese Knotweed growth and planting in the riparian buffer could be possible focuses for the projects.

Action to be taken: TCC should revisit this assignment at the April meeting to develop the summer projects.

New Members

Two new attendees (Susan Salster and Maureen McCullough) expressed interest in becoming members of the commission. The select board will be requested to appoint these interested persons to the commission at their next meeting.

Next Meeting: November 18, 6:30pm, Tunbridge Library.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.