**WEATHERSFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

MARCH 28,2019

Attending: Heather Shand, Ellen Clattenburg, Roy Burton, Howard Beach, Harry Temple, Tina Wood and Sven Fedorow, Landuse Administrator

Absent: Jeff Pelton and George Ainley

Meeting was called to order at 7:10.

Minutes from the January 31, 2019 were accepted as written. (Feb. meeting cancelled)

**TOWN POLICY:** Members of the town government need to take an oath agreeing to the Ethic Policy and the Conflict of Interest Policy. We wondered, as members of the Con. Com. whether we need to take this oath. Sven said he will find out.

**OFFICERS:**  The same slate as last year was voted in:

Chair—Heather Shand

Vice chair—Jeff Pelton

Sec.—Tina Wood

Treas.—Roy Buton

Ellen Clattenburg was voted in as a new member.

**FINANCES AND PHOTO CONTEST**: We talked about the Photo Contest that the Con. Com. runs yearly. Some felt the money we spend on prizes was too much given our budget. Last year we spent over $300. Heather looked into the cost of cheaper frames ($95, with glass $122) and all three get the same prize: their photos framed and displayed at the Town Office, the school and the library. As we have other expenses such as funding workshops, speaker fees, printing a brochure, etc. we didn’t want to spend our whole 2018 budget on this. Since the new budget year starts in July We decided to look further into the finances and how best to use our remaining funds before then. Ellen suggested that we might get a gift certificate now, before the end of the fiscal year, and use it later when we need the money for prizes. It was so voted. Sven mentioned the need for the Selectboard to approve all spending. Timing might be a problem as they only meet twice a month. We’ll look into this.

**ASH TREE INVENTORY:** Roy met with another forester who has been doing this ash survey. Using the data survey sheet from other towns Roy and Jeff, and Roy and his wife have conducted the survey on Weathersfield’s dirt roads. They have put in at least 6 hours doing this on 7 or 8 roads. The parameters are: location within town Right of Way, size diameter at breast height, health, danger of falling, size of butt sawlog, within a stone wall, etc. and marking location on a map. This is a labor intensive job and should be done in teams of three. There is no hurry to do this but it is easier to do when there are no leaves on the trees.

There will be an Ash Tree Workshop in Hartland, April 16, at Damon Hall sponsored by SWCRPC.

**ENERGY:** Howard, who is also on the Planning Com., said that they are discussing an “Enhanced Energy Plan” promoted by out-of-state investors to build enormous solar arrays some covering more than 100 acres. This is becoming a problem as the individual towns have no say and the power generated goes to CT. with no apparent benefit to VT. Annette Smith, an energy activist, spoke to the PC and said the way to oppose this is politically rather than legally because of their very deep pockets. It is an important for the Con. Com. to investigate and pay attention to this issue.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**—** Jeff made a calendar for the upcoming year which lists meetings, hikes, workshops, etc. which will be very handy.

— Heather will update the CC portion of the town’s website with updates and pictures and the calendar.

— Heather will contact a possible candidate for the new member to fill Nathalie’s position.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45.

Next meeting: April 25, 2019 at 7:00 PM. Meeting place to be announced

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Wood