**WEATHERSFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

APRIL 25, 2019

Attending: Heather Shand, Roy Burton, Howard Beach, Ellen Clattenburg, Jeff Pelton, Tyler Harwell, Tina Wood and Sven Fedorow, Landuse Administrator

Absent: Harry Temple

Meeting called to order at 7:05

Minutes from March 28, 2019 were accepted.

**ASH TREE SURVEY:** Roy, with help from his wife, Margaret, Jeff and Howard, put in many hours to inventory all of the ash trees in the Town Right of Way on all of Weathersfield 69 roads. Jeff’s wife, Willie, put the data collected onto a spreadsheet. They found there already are a number of dead trees and some in poor health. A copy will be given to Ray Stapleton, Road Commissioner and Tree Warden. Trees in the TRW still belong to the land owner but the town has the right to deal with them. This report can be used to evaluate the risk to the town of fallen and dead trees in the TRW. Copies will be given to Ed, Town Manager and Ray to use in future decision making. Thank you for your time and your work!

The VT Extension Service has a map showing the extent of the Ash Borer disease outbreak in the state.

**NATURE FESTIVAL:** Ashley Hensel Browning is applying for a grant to organize “Arts in Celebration andSupport of Nature” and that would take place in 2020. The Con. Com. could perhaps participate by leading nature walks, talks, or workshop. A talk on the geology of the Town Forest was suggested. Other ideas were a cooking contest using invasive plants, a float decorated by invasives and a forest themed art show. Heather will write a letter in support of the event and getting the grant.

**ENHANCED ENERGY PLAN:** We each were given a 45 page booklet on “VT Enhanced Energy Planning” published by Annette Smith. It is about siting solar installations and what legal rights municipalities have in their location. Support or guidance from the Planning Commission would be useful and perhaps some joint meetings on the subject could be arranged. We need to know more details. There will be a meeting on the subject in Reading on June 6th, by Michael Caduto.

**FINANCES**: Roy, Treas., said we have $325 in our CC account and that the Selectboard has to approve all expenditures. The town’s Financial Year ends June 30 and so any expenditures has to occur before then. Ellen moved that we reimburse Roy for the money spent doing the Ash Tree Survey. The official rate set by IRS is .55 per mile. Many thanks go to Roy.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

* The Liz Thomson survey of important natural areas of town from 1992 does not include other areas of town and is not up to date. She ran out of time in her study and didn’t get to include the Black river corridor and other areas. It was suggested that we look for grant money to expand the survey. Sven suggested layering the original map onto to existing town and state maps to integrate them. The exact locations of rare and endangered species should not be shown in order to protect them. Sven will check with ANRC if a research grant exists.
* Sven will set up a mailbox at the Town Office for the CC.
* Photo contest will be postponed until next year.
* Jeff will check on the amount of trash on Ferry Road to see if a clean-up is needed.
* Tyler suggested a hike along the Black River on the east side from Rt. 106.
* Kelly Stetner from the Black River Action Team offered to come to a meeting to talk about the Black river and what they are doing.
* The CC did join the VT Assoc. of Con. Com. for two years.

**DATES:**

* May 18- Garlic Mustard Pull at the Dan Foster House (WHS) at 10 AM.
* June 1-Bird walk in Windsor sponsored by the Coverts Society.
* June 2- Jeff will lead a hike on the Old Springfield Road from Weathersfield Bow to the Interstate. Meet behind the Bow Baptist Church at 2 PM.
* September 28-Annual meeting of VT Assoc. of Con. Com. at Breadloaf, Middlebury, VT

Meeting adjourned at 9:05

Next meeting May 23, 2019, at 7 PM at the Center Meeting House.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Wood