**WEATHERSFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

MAY 23, 2019

Attending: Heather Shand, Jeff Pelton, Roy Burton, Tina Wood, Ellen Clattenburg, Harry Temple, Tyler Harwell and Sven Federow, Landuse Administrator

Guest Cheryl Cox

Absent: Howard Beach

Meeting called to order: 7:05

Minutes from April 25, 2019 were accepted.

**BUDGET:** Of our $500 budget, $264 remains. Several suggestions were made as to how to use it. Ellen suggested buying Permethrum (or Cedercide as an alternative) to treat the CC members clothing as a tick repellent for our next walks to the ‘Big Basin’ kettle on June 9, theTown Forest on June 27, and on future site visits. The motion was to spend up to $200, enough for each CC member. The motion was passed. The Selectboard must now approve it.

**ASH TREE INVENTORY:** The Town Manager has a copy of the Survey. Roy will talk to the Selectboard to see if they have any questions. The next step would be for the Town to follow the recommendations in the report. Roy also handed out a final sheet covering the roads not listed in the report to be included in the Survey.

**NATURAL AREAS SURVEY:** The original Survey of Natural Areas done by Liz Thompson, done in the 1990’s, needs to be updated to cover areas in town that she didn’t cover because of time constraints. Much more information is now available through the ANRC and new technology such as overlay maps. But such maps would not cover the specific locations of rare plants and animals for their protection.

We wondered if the Army Corps has an inventory of the natural area in SpringWeather and, if they do, does it include rare and endangered species. The ANRC is beginning to map river corridors starting in the northern part of the state and working south. The Black River corridor in town needs to be covered especially after the flooding by ‘Irene’.

Jeff Pelton is again taking water samples for the Black River Action Team from streams in town. We will try to get Kelly Stetner to speak to us on updated action her group is taking.

**SUGGESTIONS:** Tyler suggested that the CC could do a study of the existing dams in town both public and private: the ownership, the height, the acreage, and dry hydrants, etc. We wondered what its use might be. Would it be useful for the Planning Com. or for public welfare? and Are we qualified to do such a task? The state is currently removing dams to restore the natural flow of the water and to improve conditions for fish. The Tolles dam and the old J&L dam are currently being looked at by the State. More information is needed.

Tyler also suggested doing a bat count. How that could be done was discussed. The rare and endangered Northern Long-eared bat has been found in Town. We could have a talk and workshop on Bats.

The Planning Commission should work more closely. There is a subdivision coming up that may require us to do a site visit. It is 188 acres with some wetlands. Sven said he could let us know of all subdivisions which is what happened administrations.

There is also a possible solar installation next to the old landfill and also one at the Town Garage that may need our input.

**WALKS:**

**June 9:** Hike to Barbara Volta’s to see a geological natural feature called a kettle and is known as the ‘Big Basin”. We will meet at 2 PM at Upper Falls Road near Barbara Volta’s old barn. It is 1/4 mile beyond.

**June 27:** Walk to the Town Forest. Meet at the Library at 6:15 to be followed by our regular meeting at the Library.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:10.

Next meeting: June 27, 2019 at 6:15 for walk; & 7 PM for meeting. Meet at the Proctor Library.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Wood