**Town of Tinmouth**

**Conservation Commission**

**Minutes**

**May 22, 2017**

Members present: Doug Fontein, Ann Czar, Barbara Held, Jo Reynolds, Chuck Bronk

Public present: Gail Fallar

Doug called the meeting to order 7:45 pm

Minutes from 3-20-16 meeting accepted as written

Agenda additions and tabled items: Gulf Road clean up, North End Road dam site cleanup, and ANR invasive plants. Tabled Nelson Jaquay issues.

***Old Business:***

Doug Fontein gave a brief report on the Amphibian Crossing signs. Five out of six appear to have been hit by vehicles. After a discussion of possible ways to prevent such damage, it was agreed to table the issue of alternate sign construction till next year and to use the existing signs with necessary repairs for the current turtle crossing season. Ann Czar will place two signs on Route 140 at Ballou’s Swamp once she receives permission from the new property owner, Barry Cohen. Chuck Bronk will place the remaining 4 signs on Channel Road before and after the small and large culverts. Signs will remain in place till mid-June, end of the turtle crossings, when they will again be stored in the Old Creamery. Doug will place a note in Front Porch Forum regarding the placements and asking drivers to please avoid the signs.

Greenup Day had disappointing attendance this year. After discussion it was agreed that Doug would contact Jeff Alexander and solicit his help in planning for next year with the support of the Green UP Committee and the Conservation Commission. The greater involvement of school students was agreed upon as a desirable goal.

Other clean up issues were discussed including the old Hortonia Light and Power dam site on North End Road and the ravine on the class 4 section of Gulf Road. The former is state property and Doug will enlist the assistance of Doug Blodgett from the State Fish and Wildlife office. The latter is on private property and was tabled pending a definitive location of the problem.

Doug asked the Commission members if there was any interest in repeating last year’s ANR invasives program. Jo Reynolds agreed to contact the organizer and place notice of whatever program is initiated on the Front Page Forum.

***New Business:***

Doug shared an idea for a possible toilet for the use at the Purchase Cabin. The concept is outlined at the following URL: <http://humanurehandbook.com>. There was general agreement that this would be a good alternative for that location. Doug pointed out that an outhouse would still need to be constructed.

Duck boxes in the Channel were discussed and future involvement of the Conservation Commission was tabled till Doug Blodgett of Fish and Wildlife, provides an idea of the level of commitment required. It was suggested that a request be made that someone from Fish and Wildlife attend our next meeting.

Members discussed the Wallingford trail system. It was generally agreed that it would be useful for our members to visit the Conservation Commissions of other nearby towns.

Finally there was a discussion of the Ridge Trail and the Purchase Loop Trail. Doug reported that there were 60 registered visitors over this winter. He also noted that there was a large tree down blocking the summer parking area. Its removal may be a town responsibility. Gail Fallar agreed to refer this matter to the Road Commissioner. The current condition forces parking before the Roy property.

Next meeting **Monday** July 17, 2017 at 7:00 P.M.

Adjourned at 8:57pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Bronk, Secretary