**Town of Tinmouth**

**Conservation Commission**

**Minutes**

**March 20, 2017**

Members present: Doug Fontein, Anne Czar, Nelson Jaquay, Barbara Held, Jo Reynolds, Chuck Bronk

Public present: Gail Fallar

Doug called the meeting to order 7:05 pm

Board Reorganized:

Chair, Doug Fontein

Vice Chair, Jo Reynolds

Secretary, Chuck Bronk

Minutes from 11-21-16 meeting accepted as written

Agenda additions: Wallingford trails, Re-Scheduling of Vermont Trails meeting, Help from Castleton University students

***Old Business:***

The Board is still short one member. Possible candidates were discussed and Doug will contact two.

Regular meeting was left on the third Monday of alternate months but was moved to 7:30 P.M.

Robert’s Rules for small boards were adopted.

Allen Betts presentation on climate change was deemed a success with some 60 attendees. Thanks went to Jo for refreshments provided and to Doug for organizing the event and notifying surrounding towns.

After discussion it was agreed that amphibian crossing signs be constructed as quickly as possible given the prevalence of un-expected warming events. Seven signs of two different sizes, larger for paved roads and smaller for dirt roads will be fabricated, painted and installed pending information from former member Carmen Fallar on specific crossing locations. Notice of the signage and its purpose will be placed on Front Porch Forum once the signs are installed.

Temporary end of Ridge Trail signage will be fabricated and installed.

***New Business:***

Vermont Trails & Greenways Council annual meeting date has been changed to April 14th in Montpelier. Groups typically in attendance were discussed, but there was no interest in sending a representative, given the distance.

Trail usage on the Purchase Loop was discussed. It was concluded that certain usage, which is currently not proscribed by the current descriptive document, such as mountain bikes and horses, should be discouraged. The Commission reviewed the non-winter conditions of the trail beyond the gate at the end of the Town road. It noted that seasonal wetness and erosion are extensive problems, which in combination with non-compliant usage could make future use of the trail difficult. Doug agreed to edit the current document for Commission review.

Nelson described the trails on the Drachman property from a hike he took with Bob Drachman some six years ago. He wondered if there were ways to both upgrade the trails and make them available for public use. He will initiate a conversation with Ruth Drachman and report back to the Commission.

Nelson also mentioned casual contact with a faculty member from Castleton University who said that she thought that there were classes that were looking for outdoor community service projects like trail maintenance. Nelson will follow up.

After a brief discussion it was agreed that it would be useful for some members of our Commission to review the trail systems in Wallingford, perhaps with representatives of their Conservation Commission.

Next meeting **Monday** 22, 2017 at 7:30 P.M.

Adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Bronk, Secretary