

Strafford Conservation Commission
Minutes
April 5, 2021

Present: Randy Jacunski , Kerry Omand, Liz Evans, Scott Young, Sue Barnes, Mimi Jost, Michael Ferber, Dave Perkins, Katrina Amaral, Cheryl Karahalios

Opening & Introduction

A Google Groups Meeting was opened at 7:08 pm. A motion was made by Michael and seconded by Kerry to approve the March minutes. Approved.

DES Applications: none

Guest Presentations: Katrina Amaral (BearPaw executive director) introduced the Pregent conservation easement. It's a 50 acre parcel with significant wetlands. Katrina briefly went over the estimated finances. She was hoping some local wetlands mitigation funding was available, but we haven't heard anything back concerning a local bridge project.

Continuing Business

IRCR – NRCS money is not available to municipalities unlike conservation organizations and private landowners to help defray costs of invasive species control. Conservation Commission is undecided about how to proceed with control along the Cow Path. Should consider applying to town as part of our annual budget for such projects. Mimi is setting up the annual Garlic Mustard pull for May 26th and will notify abutters. Gate currently unlocked as far as anyone knows. Rumor has it the powerline project is complete, needs to be explored to make sure area is secured against ATV traffic. Bog bridges have been removed.

Strafford Town Forest- Will be meeting with Bre (Garnas group) about request for further EAB research this next growing season. Summary of proposed effort. Meeting in late April on site. Parking area clean up will be easy this spring. Several small trees along trail need to be cut and removed. Upper trails not explored.

Evans Mt.- Gates have not been closed. Snowmobile club hopefully taking down signs and securing gate soon.

Barnes Lot Conservation Easement – quiet, waiting for surveyor's report.

Leighton Forest- SELT has raised necessary funds to proceed with June closing. Duane will be presenting final budget and requesting appropriation of funding, perhaps by next meeting. Since the Town is not asking for an executory interest, the commission can approve and appropriate funds from town conservation easement account without going thru a public hearing. Duane is waiting on the final surveyor's report.

Other – Annual report submitted and budget approved.

NHACC 2021 dues paid.

Wilcox Lot/Lake Shore Dr. zoning board application not until May

Whitcher planning board meeting not until June

Waldron easement waiting for signing. \$6,650.00 commitment from CC.

We entertained a request from Rue Teel (Bear Paw) to find and fund an Earth day project, but it is a bit late in the season and we have no budgeting in our account for providing vests. gloves etc.

Calendar ideas: Huge rodent numbers-voles, chipmunks, and squirrels. Various recipes. Much disparagement about their behavior. Mimi reports early return of tree swallows a week ago. Blotchy goldfinches. Bluebirds are scoping out nest boxes. Phoebes are back. Everyone has turkeys. Large volume of trash along town roads, perhaps a record amount. Asking for volunteers to help clean up.

Meeting ended 8:11 pm

Next meeting: Monday May 3rd, 2021 7:00 pm. Google Meet. **Site Visits:** none

Respectfully submitted,
Scott A. Young