

Strafford Conservation Commission
Minutes
July 1, 2019

Present: Bruce Smith, Dave Perkins, Mimi Jost, Scott Young, Randy Jacunski, Kerry Omand, Katrina Amaral

Guests: Kevin Corcoran, Katy Cecchetti, Rick Cecchetti

Opening & Introduction

The meeting was opened at 7:00 pm. A motion was made by Scott and seconded by Randy to approve the June minutes as amended. Approved.

Guest Presentations: Katy Cecchetti and Kevin Corcoran (both former Strafford residents) are filming a documentary in celebration of the Strafford Bicentennial. As open space and conservation lands are a major part of our town heritage, they are looking for opportunities to film scenic footage. Scott will bring them to the IRCR this week. The Commission also recommended a variety of other locations, including the loon and eagle chicks on Bennett Island.

Continuing Business

IRCR – the big ash tree on the property is being given a trial injection to protect it from Emerald Ash Borer. This is a free service provided by federal funding for prominent ash trees on town properties. The utility company filed an intent to cut for a selection of hazard trees along the roadside; Scott made a site visit and there are no objections.

Evans Mountain – whip-poor-will numbers are lower this year than in previous years. It is possible that the trees are becoming too mature for prime whip-poor-will nesting habitat.

Town Forest – Many thanks to Mike Harrington for cleaning up the link trail and reblazing the path. Randy and Scott pruned back the lilac bushes so that the memorial plaque is visible again. Ben P. will be replacing the Town Forest sign this month as part of his Eagle Scout project.

EAB project update – EAB eggs have been placed on the study trees (reminder: all study trees will be removed post-experiment to ensure no EAB escapes)

Next meeting: Monday, August 5, 7 pm. Town Hall. **Site Visits:** None

Respectfully submitted,

Katrina Amaral