

Strafford Conservation Commission
Minutes
November 04, 2019

Present: Bruce Smith, Dave Perkins, Mimi Jost, Scott Young, Randy Jacunski, Kerry Omand, Sue Barnes, Duane Hyde, Phil Auger

Opening & Introduction

The meeting was opened at 7:00 pm. A motion was made and seconded to approve the October minutes as written. Approved.

Guest Presentations:

Leighton Forest: Duane Hyde from SELT (Southeast Land Trust) made a presentation for a conservation project involving land currently owned by the Leighton family. A detailed handout was provided. The Cons Com gave unanimous tentative support as fund raising moves forward. Its an approx. 407 acre property in both Strafford and Barrington. The project covers 120 acres within Strafford (30%). Site walk date to be determined after Duane's presentation to the Barrington Cons Com.

Cooper-Walworth Easement: We reviewed, with Phil Auger, a reserved right proposal to remove a 5 acre building lot by the Sweets. A resolution to accept the presented plan was made and approved by the commission.

Katrina Amaral has become the new Executive Director of Bear Paw Regional Greenways. She has stepped down from the Strafford Conservation Commission due to conflict of interest.

DES Application: none

Continuing Business

IRCR – Phil monitored the IRCR and made a report. Everything looks good including resolution of a previous property boundary infringement. Trails need work after recent windstorms. We had a quick discussion about needing to control invasives.

Evans Mountain – Monitoring report/review. Commission feels a gate is needed at far end of property near Caldwell easement boundary to thwart vehicle trespass. Research needed.

Paint cans left near Evans cemetery on conservation easement has been addressed. The Fire Department investigated 5-5 gallon paint cans and concluded they contained non-toxic substance. Eric Rowe volunteered to the fire department that he would take care of the problem.

Town Forest – Rocks that were impeding mowing/invasives control of the front entry hill were removed. We reviewed the EAB project. We considered funding materials

acquisition for EAB control through the same UNH research group under Jeff Garnas if they decide to pursue a research grant for another study.

We briefly discussed another harvest on the Storer lot to enhance wildlife habitat and to generate some revenue to use for invasive species control- a growing problem throughout Strafford

Other

Approved snow plowing of the Town Forest and IRCR parking lots again this winter by Don Clifford

Motion accepted to purchase a few more back up locks for gates and to provide trash bags for invasives control.

Sue Barnes attended the NHACC conference and talked about a few of the seminars she attended, especially about integrating conservation values into economic modelling.

Next meeting: Monday, December 2, 7 pm. Town Hall. **Site Visits:** Leighton Forest-pending

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Young