

Strafford Conservation Commission
Minutes
May 6, 2019

Present: Randy Jacunski, Katrina Amaral, Susan Barnes, Bruce Smith, Mimi Jost, Kerry Omand, Scott Young

Guests: Grace Bailey, Dr. Jeff Garnas, Bre Aflague, Gloria Reinfurt, Steve Reinfurt, Liz Evans

Opening & Introductions

The meeting was opened at 7:05 pm. A motion was made by Sue and seconded by Kerry to accept the April 2019 minutes. Approved.

Guest Presentations

Dr. Jeff Garnas and Bre Aflague from the University of New Hampshire presented a project proposal to study the effects of emerald ash borer (EAB), an invasive insect currently killing our native ash trees. The Edgerley lot on the Town Forest has many young ash trees at high densities, which is desirable for this study. EAB has already been located in Strafford. Jeff and Bre ensured us that the research would not exacerbate EAB spread and the research would not affect current ongoing plant surveys in the Town Forest. They hope this research will provide answers for saving the next generation of ash trees. Scott made a motion to approve the EAB research project on the Edgerley Lot. Randy seconded and the motion was approved.

Gloria and Steve Reinfurt brought to the Conservation Commission's attention their concerns regarding a proposed wedding venue on Parker Mountain Road. They asked the Commission to consider the effects that the noise and crowds would have on wildlife movement and adjacent conservation land.

Continuing Business

IRCR - Scott cleaned up the parking area however the trails are still full of sticks. We will work to clean up the trails. One of the gates has been left open and motorcycles are using the area restricted to vehicle traffic. Kerry will look into where the lock may be. There will be a Bear-Paw walk on the property on May 18th from 9 – 11am. All are welcome to attend.

Evans Mountain - Need to look into if the gates have been locked yet

Town Forest - Sue walked up Parker Mountain – the waterbars look good and there are no trees down. The Town Forest parking area is muddy which has been a continuing issue. Scott proposed upgrading the parking area and will look into ways to do so. Thanks to Don Clifford for plowing this winter. Katrina will reach out to Ben Poirier in regards to his Town Forest sign project.

Other

The Conservation Education box donated to the library is being used by parents and teachers
Wildlife sightings: many hawk, turtles, bear and her 2 cubs, and migratory songbird species returning

Next Meeting: Monday, June 3, 7 pm. Town Hall. **Site Visits:** none

Respectfully submitted,

Katrina Amaral