

Strafford Conservation Commission
Minutes
August 1, 2016

Present: Liz Evans Harmony Anderson Carolyn Page Dave Perkins Scott A. Young
Bruce Smith Susan Barnes
Guests: Mimi Jost Phil Auger

Opening and Introductions

The meeting was opened at 7:05 pm. A date change was made to the minutes. A motion was made by Harmony and seconded by Liz to accept the July 2016 **minutes**. Approved as amended.

Guest Presentations

Phil Auger presented a plan proposed by Charlie Moreno, Scott and Phil for a trail to take the place of the steep ATV trail (formerly a skidder road) on the Evans Mountain property. It starts in the approximate same area, skirts a wetland and climbs more gradually to the ledge area. From the base, hikers would follow the logging road then Evans Mountain Road to the peak. This plan would eliminate all the other proposed trail routes across the top linking the South Peak with the Spencer Smith Trail. Much discussion followed with opposition voiced by Carolyn and Dave. Some cutting for views from the South Peak will take place. The parking lot area will be cleaned up to allow for a few more cars and some trail rerouting to the peak will take place to keep the majority on Town land. Scott will do a new map showing just this route to present to Bear-Paw. Dave, Scott, Phil and Mimi will walk the proposed trail next week. Scott got a new lock for the Evans Mt. gate.

DES applications none

Continuing Business

IRCR - Phil said an excavator would be needed to fix the gate post at the power lines.

Evans Mountain – see above.

Town Forest – The deadline for finishing the prescribed patch cutting and building the upper logging trail is the end of September. The work cannot be started because of NRCS guidelines protecting the resident bat population. Also there is no market at this time for the chips that would be made from the trees that are mostly not quality lumber material. Dave suggested that the chips be piled on the property rather than incur the cost of shipping. Liz thought that if the deadline cannot be met that we may have to pay for the work.

Other – In response to communications with Daniel Dupee about the recent donation of land, Harmony will interview him and his sister for a Strafford Calendar article. Liz is still trying to get a sign for the property. Bruce will contact Bob Edmonds to see if he has the plans for the sign. Letters went out to Caswell Cove residents and to Mike Whitcher who is developing Robin's Way regarding dock permits.

New Business

Harmony suggested cleaning out the old cellar hole on the School property as a project for the "Day of Giving". Apparently, people have been dumping garbage in the hole as well as along the road and in the sand bank area.

Site walks Evans Mt. trail next week.

Next Meeting: Monday, September 11 7:00 pm. Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Enz Page