

Strafford Conservation Commission
Minutes
May 2, 2016

Present: Liz Evans Harmony Anderson Carolyn Page Scott A. Young
Randy Jacunski Kerry Omand Bruce Smith Susan Barnes Irving Johnson
Guests: Mimi Jost Gordon Page Phil Auger Eric Rowe George Lovejoy Charlie Moreno

Opening and Introductions

The meeting was opened at 7:05 pm. A motion was made by Randy and seconded by Susan to accept the April 2016 **minutes**. Approved.

Guest Presentations

Charlie brought in a map showing the Evans Mountain properties and how he has them divided into 4 to 5 sections. He is including the McCabe Lot that is contiguous with the parcel he is calling the North View Area (the open acreage on the right of Evans Mt. Road as you approach the top). He suggested that a light timber harvest on the McCabe Lot could defray the costs of keeping the North View Area clear for wildlife habitat. The other sections include the flat-ish area on top of the ridge, the ridge, and the area along the bottom of the ridge.

He and Scott scoped out and tentatively marked an appropriate trail placement avoiding vernal pools and some areas of rare plant and animal life. The trail is mostly on the back side of the ridge on the portion of land owned by George Lovejoy. His land is a Wild Land Reserve that is part of a long term study by Harvard University. George said that his people would build the trail section on his land. Liz thanked both Scott and George for their efforts.

Phil is applying for a grant to help with the Evans Mt. road/trail/parking lot. He and Greg Messenger looked at the road and parking lot possibilities. The culvert that was put in drains into an old cellar hole and should be moved. The cost for that was between \$50,000 and 60,000. The powerline burial could be included in the grant as esthetic improvement.

It has to be determined what part of Evans Mountain Road is discontinued and where it is classified as a Class Six road. He and Liz agreed that having a warrant article to change the Class Six section to a Class A Trail would be the best solution. That would enable the Town to maintain the road, but all land owners abutting the road have to agree. Since the trail work will involve very few funds that work can go ahead.

MOTION: Carolyn moved that we approve the preliminary trail proposals as presented by Scott, Charlie and George. Kerry seconded. Approved.

Continuing Business

IRCR Gordon Page wanted to know our long-term plans for handling the invasives in the apple orchard section of the IRCR. Phil told of a company in Vermont that does that type of work. He will find out what costs are involved

Mimi scheduled the garlic mustard pull for Wednesday, May 25.

Evans Mountain see above

Town Forest no news

Other Trout Unlimited's application to create some trout-friendly habitat in the Isinglass River has gone in. (A presentation was given about a year ago.)

Phil thinks that there might be some wetlands violations happening on the property across from Whig Hill Road. He is trying to get someone to investigate.

Liz wanted to know if we should talk to the Farinella family regarding the upper slopes of their land which abuts the Evans Mountain property. Phil thinks that a lot of it is either too steep or too wet to develop.

Harmony reminded us to follow up our site walk to Phil Auger's new acreage that abuts his conserved land. The property had nice walking trails through the forest.

MOTION: Scott moved that we approve up to \$15,750.00 for the conservation of the new Auger property. Randy seconded. Approved.

New Business none

Next Meeting: Monday, June 6 7:00 pm. Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Enz Page