

Strafford Conservation Commission
Minutes
November 3, 2014

Present: Dave Perkins, Scott A. Young, Randy Jacunski, Kerry Omand, Liz Evans, Susan Barnes, Irving Johnson, Bruce Smith

Guests: Mimi Jost, Phil Auger

Opening and Introductions

The meeting was opened at 7:00 p.m. October minutes: after a brief discussion of the suggestion regarding girdling the large Norway Maple on land adjoining the Town Forest, a motion was made by Scott Young to accept the October minutes. Kerry Omand seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

Guest Presentations

Phil Auger attended to update the Commission regarding the Crooked Run conservation project on the Storer Boy Scout camp lands. All three towns (Strafford, Barnstead and Pittsfield) have committed to contribute funding and a final large donation by a landowner closed the deal. He asked that the Commission review the proposed easement language, especially the use limitations section. Some of the land use restrictions stem from the NH DES ARM funding for the project; they have negotiated provisions to allow forest management in buffer areas near wetlands. LCHIP funding allows more flexibility. He noted that if the easement is silent on certain uses, they are allowed. There is no proposed restriction on ATV use; it was noted that ATVs have been used in low-impact ways on the by the Scouts for years. Barnstead and Pittsfield will both be holding executory interests in the property. It was agreed that in this case, Strafford should also hold an executory interest, even though the Commission is allowed to donate funds to the project without taking an interest in the property. It was agreed that the Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on the expenditure at the Commission's next meeting on December 1st. Phil Auger will forward a copy of the final budget.

Old Business

Isinglass River Conservation Reserve—The Commission is still working on finding “no horses” signs.

Evans Mountain—The gate and lock were discussed. The snowmobile club continues to help with the gate. The meeting with Charlie Moreno and George Lovejoy will probably take place later in the winter when things quiet down.

Town Forest—It was agreed that another plan will need to be considered for dealing with the Norway Maple saplings. The “mother tree” is in the Foss cemetery. It was suggested that the Foss family be contacted. Scott Young and Dave Perkins met to lay out the new route for the Neil Mooers trail. Charlie Moreno is working with Scott Sweet on the next round of wildlife patch cuts on the Edgerly Lot and Storer Lot. The rocks blocking the entrance to the Town Forest access road will be replaced by a gate as part of the project. Lock guards were discussed. The work will be reimbursed by NRCS.

New Business

None.

Dates: Site Walks—none scheduled.

Liz Evans

Next meeting: Monday, December 1st, 7:00 p.m. Town Hall

Calendar article ideas—please share.