

Strafford Conservation Commission
Minutes
April 4, 2016

Present: Carolyn Page Dave Perkins Scott A. Young
Randy Jacunski Kerry Omand Susan Barnes
Guests: Mimi Jost James Zeblisky Eric Rowe Shawn Barry

Opening and Introductions

The meeting was opened at 7:08 pm. Some adjustments were made to last month's minutes in the "George Lovejoy" paragraph and "Other" at the bottom of the page. A motion was made by Scott and seconded by Randy to accept the March 2016 **minutes as amended**. Approved.

Guest Presentations

James Zeblisky described an Eagle Scout project he wants to do at the Town Forest. It involves building four bat houses and placing them around the beaver pond at the base of Parker Mountain. Each house will be 2'x2'x2" and will hold up to 300 bats. He has consulted with Charlie Moreno to find the best sites for them. James has seen bats flying in the area and hopes to attract more to help control the mosquito population. He will be making a sign telling about the project that will be placed near the site.

MOTION: Carolyn moved that James be allowed to build and place bat houses on the Town Forest pond. Seconded by Dave. Approved.

Eric Rowe distributed a binder to each of us containing guidelines and forms for a grant suggested by Phil Auger and Dan Kern. The matching grant would cover 80% of the funds needed to build trails, fix a culvert, create a parking lot and buy and install gates for Evans Mountain. If burying the powerline from the cemetery to the edge of the property along Evans Mt. Rd. can be worked into the grant, Eric is willing to pay half of the matching funds. Communications with Bear-Paw indicate that burying the powerline could be part of the project. Carolyn will email Phil and Dan for their input.

DES Applications

Packets of information for a property on Kooauke Island were read and discussed. The proposed building of retaining walls for sand looked like a good idea to keep it out of the lake. The removal of one tree didn't look as though it would radically change the environment. Scott will call Liz with our thoughts so she can write a letter.

Continuing Business

IRCR Randy walked the trails that he said all looked great. The snowmobile gate is still open. Kerry said that Shawn Barry will be locking them soon.

Evans Mountain (see above)

A work crew of Scott, Mimi, Susan, Carolyn & Gordon Page walked the "rogue trail" to remove the flagging, stone cairns, metal posts, and arrows nailed into trees. Signs were put up stating, "Please! No unauthorized Trails, Fragile habitats are present, Official trail underway, Trail making or marking prohibited except through Forest Stewardship Plan approval".

Town Forest Mimi, Carolyn and the Wednesday hiking group tried to make the entrance to the woods portion of the Neil Mooers Trail more obvious and painted double blazes where the trail makes a 90° turn as per conventional trail codes. They also removed slag from the link between the open area at the top of the woods road so walkers can see a path leading to the trail. Mimi's husband has agreed to make signs pointing to the blue trail to the summit of Parker Mountain.

New Business

Phil Auger has asked that we investigate the new driveway across from the bottom of Whig Hill Road to see if there are wetlands violations. The property is posted with a chain across the road. We will drive by and see if there are obvious violations.

Russ Hunter of Bow Lake Estates is once again asking about a place to compost leaves and other yard waste. We suggest he contact the selectmen to see if there is a space at the transfer station.

Other Susan and Mimi are going to the Saving Special Places Conference. Aside from the individual workshops they will be attending, they both will be in the Trails Workshop.

Next Meeting: Monday, May 2 7:00 pm. Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Enz Page