

Strafford Conservation Commission
Minutes
November 4, 2013

Present: Liz Evans Harmony Anderson Carolyn Page
Randy Jacunski Kerry Omand Bruce Smith Susan Barnes

Guests: Shawn Barry

Opening and Introductions

The meeting was opened at 7:02 pm. The October minutes were amended to read “A public hearing will be held for the Crooked Run and Bow Lake properties before any money is transferred.” A motion was made by Liz and seconded by Susan to accept the October 2013 **minutes** as amended. Approved.

Guest Presentations

Shawn Barry came to ask permission to complete the snowmobile trail around the pond on the School Board property. He had talked to the officials there and got their permission. Bruce wanted to make sure that the trail would be unavailable to wheeled motorized vehicles.

MOTION: Liz moved that we support the Swamp Stompers Snow Mobile Club’s attempt to reopen the existing snowmobile trail around the pond. Seconded by Randy. Approved.

Old Business

IRCR Last month Phil Auger talked about a work party to take down some broken limbs. Carolyn will remind him of that.

Town Forest Charlie Moreno is finishing up working on the invasive plants encroaching on the forest. He asked for some help to pull the little Norway maples. Liz will tell him we will help in the spring when the leaves are out for easier identification.

Harmony went to Matt Dustin’s investiture as an Eagle Scout and said a few words about his good work and thanked him.

Harmony talked to Jerry Bowman who is looking for boards to rebuild the bog bridges on the Spencer Smith Trail.

Evans Mountain Liz has communicated with the woman who knows the connecting links from Parker to Evans Mountain. Liz can only meet on Tuesday evenings. She will send Harmony and Carolyn the email address for this woman to see if we can find times to meet.

Other Boy Scout Property (Crooked Run) site walk, October 14. Liz, Dave, Scott, Susan, Randy and Carolyn went on this walk. We found this 180 acre property to be quite hilly with a network of trails already on it. We questioned whether the hills were drumlins or not. We came out at Wild Goose Pond then walked along the Province Road past the wetlands area where Scott told of the variety of wildlife found there. Across the road is conservation land owned by George Lovejoy. We heard 2 partridge, saw 2 vernal pools, a stream bed, a big white oak, and heard a pileated woodpecker.

First Crown Point Property site walk, October 23. Phil Auger, Dave, Scott, Carolyn and Gordon Page went on this walk. This property has very little frontage on the road, but opens up quickly. It is mostly

forested uplands sloping down to some wetlands at the rear. These 44 acres are abutted by two preserved parcels: the Blue Job Wildlife Management Area and Blue Hills land.

New Business We discussed the plowing of the two parking lots; one for the town forest and one at the IRCR. We will give notice of a public hearing at our next meeting, December 2 to see if the town agrees to using the Conservation Fund money for this purpose. Liz will find out if the estimate of an annual \$1,500.00 is for one or both lots.

Other Bruce told about hunting for salamanders and finding quite a few. Harmony wants us to host a party in the new forest opening to get town's folk out there sometime this winter.

Next Meeting: Monday, December 2, 2013 7:00 pm. Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Enz Page