

Strafford Conservation Commission
Minutes
May 5, 2014

Present: Liz Evans Harmony Anderson Carolyn Page Scott A. Young
Randy Jacunski Kerry Omand Bruce Smith

Guests: Charlie Moreno

Opening and Introductions

The meeting was opened at 7:03 pm. A motion was made by Harmony and seconded by Scott to accept the April 2014 minutes. Approved.

Guest Presentations

Charlie Moreno Charlie came with four points about the Town Forest that he wanted to cover.

1. Update on Town Forest 2013 projects: The Town Forest management plan crafted in 2005 is on schedule. Charlie thanked Scott for his input on the ongoing natural heritage inventory, which is a major feature of the forest management plan. The goal is to maintain a diversity of habitats and individual species while allowing for timber harvest and recreation. Installation of the forest road is completed.

Timber stand improvement and habitat modifications will continue over time. The designated Wildlands Reserve (upper slope) contains some very old, but not necessarily large trees.

About 6 acres of early successional habitat was cut last year within the extensive beech/hemlock forest middle slopes. Periodically (10-15 years) it will have to be recut to maintain this community type.

2. Planned projects for 2014: Charlie's major concern now is controlling the invasive plant species. He listed barberry, burning bush, honeysuckle, bittersweet, Norway maple and glossy buckthorn spreading into the lower elevations. In particular the Norway maple seedlings/saplings need to be pulled this year. We will try to recruit boy scouts or others to help with this project.

3. Management Description: The goal is to have a mixed-age forest for the Storer, Weidman, Edgerly and Merrill Steward lots. A discussion ensued about adding the Stiles lot to the Town Forest management plan.

MOTION: Liz moved that the management plan for the Town Forest be expanded to include the Stiles lot. Harmony seconded. Approved.

4. New Town Lands: We asked Charlie to extend the Town Forest Management Plan to include the Evans Mt. property. Available to him are the natural heritage inventories (plant communities, wetlands inventory, biomon results, etc.) in order to have an overarching comprehensive conservation plan. Additionally, it was suggested that Charlie contact Blue Hills Foundation to attempt to coordinate with their efforts on adjacent parcels. Once this plan is completed and filed then the proper siting of recreation trails can be established.

MOTION: Liz moved that the current management plan be expanded to include all contiguous town property. Harmony seconded. Approved.

We will set a date in June to discuss the invasive species work and a site walk pertaining to the management plan. He thought it would be a good idea to do an update once a year.

DES application none

Old Business

Post April 18th site walk discussion on possible easement property: The property is in a nice location with nearby large lots of preserved property. There are some issues that we will allow Phil Auger to address.

IRCR – Maintenance work continued – garlic mustard pull? Will schedule a work date in June.

Evans Mountain See Charlie's report.

Maintenance work?

Need for some Management plan before trail work

Town Forest See Charlie's report

Maintenance work – Spencer Smith trail, cemetery, other?

Forestry practices this summer

Additions to the Conservation Commission portion of the website It would cost the commission for changes. Mostly, we would like to see the main picture (currently Water Street) changed to something more representative of the

town. Two suggestions were the picture from the top of Evans Mt. looking down on the lake and the picture taken from the south shore or the lake looking up at the ridge line of Evans and Parker Mts.

New Business

Liz had a bill from Bear-Paw for services.

MOTION: Liz moved that we pay Bear-Paw Regional Greenways \$200.00. Scott seconded. Approved

Other Bruce and Anne Smith were out on three of the town properties discovering salamanders. They saw many of them plus ten painted turtles on the IRCR.

Dates: Site Walks _____ **TBA** _____

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Enz Page