

Strafford Conservation Commission
Minutes
December 7, 2015

Present: Liz Evans Harmony Anderson Carolyn Page Scott A. Young
Randy Jacunski Kerry Omand
Guests: Mimi Jost

Opening and Introductions

The meeting was opened at 7:05 pm. A motion was made by Harmony and seconded by Scott to accept the November 2015 **minutes**. Approved.

DES applications

Rick Burrows, driveway culvert for subdivision on 1040 Second Crown Point Road. Liz unrolled a large map showing the plot and distributed the wetlands permit application. Discussion. MOTION: Kerry moved that we approve the project. Randy seconded. Approved

Continuing Business

IRCR – Randy did the chain saw work needed on the trails and said that they are now all clear. Kerry reported the same for the snowmobile trails.

Evans Mountain – Kerry said that the snowmobile club cut back the encroaching brush on either side of the logging road.

Mimi sent the pictures she took of the downed tree at the corner of the Rowe property and the Town easement to Bear-Paw. Kerry said that he talked to the owner about his plans to put the electrical line underground. It would involve about forty feet of easement property. The owner needs to check with the Town or Bear-Paw about this. Kerry said that the owner is doing road improvement which recalled past discussions about reimbursement. Liz found that the Town can spend funds to improve a Class A trail, but not a Class 6 road.

Town Forest Scott cleaned the water bars on the Spencer Smith Trail just before the meeting. Harmony reminded us to keep an eye on the parking lot to see if it gets winter use.

Other Dan Kern from Bear-Paw will talk to Mr. Romano about the property on Merrill Road.

New Business

Report from members who attended the NHACC meetings: Randy said that he attended a “Conservation Commission 101” workshop and learned about the legal responsibilities of Commissions. He also attended a workshop on Wetlands Restoration and a Fish and Game presentation on some endangered species. He said he had a good day, learned a lot and got very good handout material.

Susan will report at our next meeting.

Dupee deed – Liz asked our opinion about some wording such as “no wheeled vehicles and limited timber cutting” in the deed that seemed unnecessary since it is covered in the easement agreement. Since this property is not inspected yearly by Bear-Paw, we agreed to inspect it periodically. Liz will use some of the wording for the Tisher deed.

Cecil Abels III email on mountain bikes – Liz distributed a nicely worded email from Cecil about his wish to see a mountain bike trail along the ridge line from Blue Job to Parker Mountain. We were most concerned about soil erosion and endangerment of sensitive natural communities. Harmony pointed out that our role is to protect the habitat and so must be opposed to this idea. Kerry added that bikers who wished to use snowmobile trails must get the same permission snowmobilers need from each land owner.

Violation complaint notice – The Department of Environment Services issued a complaint notice about a property on Barn Door Gap Road.

Other: DOT is taking out a historic stone culvert and replacing it with a pipe. Snowmobile maps are available at straffordswampstompers.com.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Enz Page