

Strafford Conservation Commission
Minutes
November 7, 2011

Present: Liz Evans Harmony Anderson Carolyn Page Dave Perkins Scott A. Young
Kerry Omand Bruce Smith Irving Johnson Cal Schroeder

Opening and Introductions

The meeting was opened at 7:03 pm. A motion was made by Kerry and seconded by Dave to accept the October 2011 **minutes**. Approved.

Guest Presentations

DES applications: Liz presented four applications. The first two presented no issues. For the third, a wish to correct erosion at the lake shore, we approved with the stipulation that the eroded area be restored to current wetland standards. For the last, another lake property, Liz will be sending a letter to the state warning of a nearby rare plant. Scott discovered this *Potamogeton vaseyi* last summer. It is only the fourth occurrence of the plant in the state. We also continue to have objections to the length of the docks in this very narrow passageway.

Other: Cal distributed a copy of an article from the Suncook Valley Sun about the Northwood Area Land Management Collaborative workshop that built 22 Aldo Leopold benches. Cal proposed that we hold a similar workshop to make benches for the Isinglass River Conservation Reserve (IRCR) and the Town Forest. He said that he has three hemlocks that he will donate and will talk to Jack Bronnenberg to see if he will haul the logs and to George Kitts to see if he will saw them. He suggests a date sometime in the spring to hold this event. The Conservation Commission will need to supply any hardware. Harmony will contact one of the Northwood folks to see what will be needed and to get instructions on the construction of the benches.

MOTION: Harmony moved that we go ahead with this project. Carolyn seconded. Approved.

Old Business

Evans Mountain: Final wording of the deed will be read and approved by the Committee who worked on it with George Lovejoy.

IRCR: JB Cullen turned in the first report on the educational trails in the IRCR. A nice color coded map accompanied the report.

Dave reported that the bridges for the larger trails in the reserve did not get built. Volunteers are needed. The project is put on hold until the spring.

The parking lot is still not complete, but Steve Leighton has been in the hospital.

Town Forest: Harmony had a message from Matt Dustin who said his Eagle Scout project was approved and that he will be starting work on the water bars this Saturday. He said that he will need material to post in for the kiosk and three plexiglass panels. We will need to provide those by June.

There was a complaint about the lack of landscaping care around the Town Forest plaque. Harmony, Scott and Liz will have a workday on Saturday, the 12th, and visit the waterbar project at the same time. Harmony will check with Matt about what time he expects to be on the mountain and will email the others by Thursday.

Harmony's article in the Strafford Calendar resulted in the adoption of one waterbar. She will continue to make this project known.

New Business

Liz distributed a flyer from the NH Association of Conservation Commissions about member services. We will follow up with their help to create a webpage.

Bruce told of a concerned Sloper Road person who asked that the Conservation Commission consider the impact of the Mohawk River flooding a pond being constructed in Leighton's gravel pit. There is a berm between the two bodies of water that was constructed based on the 100 year flood event. If that is maintained, Bruce does not see a great problem here and the area in the pit has no potentially hazardous foreign materials

Liz told of Eric Rowe's concern about use of the Class Six Road that he cares for by visitors to the Evans Mountain property. He has been invited to come to the Conservation Commission to discuss the problem with us.

Harmony raised the topic of not having funds to care for the new properties under our care. There are approximately 1,500 acres now in easements or owned by the town for which we have responsibility. Liz suggested that we start a forest management/stewardship fund. Then we can ask to transfer some funds from the land acquisition fund to it and also have a place to put any funds that may be derived from forestry works.

Dates: November 12, Town Forest. **Next Meeting:** Monday, December 6, 2011, 7:00 pm. Town Hall

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Enz Page