

**Strafford Conservation Commission
Minutes
September 8, 2014**

Present: Liz Evans Harmony Anderson Carolyn Page Dave Perkins Scott A. Young
Randy Jacunski Kerry Omand Bruce Smith Susan Barnes Irving Johnson

Guests: Mimi Jost Jeannie Ferguson Cheryl Mrozienski

Opening and Introductions

The meeting was opened at 7:04 pm. A motion was made by Harmony and seconded by Dave to accept the July 2014 **minutes**. Approved.

Guest Presentations - Jeannie Ferguson and Cheryl Mrozienski started a discussion on a loon nesting site and their concern for the possible disruption of the site by proposed development of the adjacent shoreline property. The advice from the commission was to keep everyone who could be involved made aware that requests for development will be coming in the future and be kept abreast of happenings. Some names of contacts were suggested.

DES Applications – Berry River Stream Gauge; The commissioners reviewed the application to install a stream gauge on a portion of the Berry River that runs through town land and approved it by consensus.

Old Business

IRCR

Maintenance work – Mimi checked the garlic mustard and commented that it is very obvious where we did the pull this past spring. We will have to repeat the pull on the new growth this coming spring.

She also reported on horses using the Meadows Loop foot trail and avoiding the bog bridges. This means the horses are going through the wet areas meant to be avoided by the bridges and causing erosion. We need to make sure that a sign is posted at the kiosk. A discussion about posting signs at the beginnings of the foot trails followed. We will need two signs for each end of the Meadows Trail, two for each end of the Beaver Pond Loop and one for the beginning of the Isinglass Trail.

Mimi found the invasive, purple loosestrife, growing in the Meadows. She asked for help in cutting the stalks before they go to seed. Sue volunteered.

Evans Mountain

Maintenance work - none

Management plans, thoughts. (We began touching on this at the end of the last meeting, what do we really want it to be like up there.) – We need to wait for Charlie Moreno's recommendations.

Other - We need to find out from George Lovejoy whether or not the Blue Hills Foundation has completed its management plan and if they have recommendations about where to site a peak-to-peak trail. Liz will talk to George.

Town Forest—

Maintenance work--cemetery, Norway maple—ideas for volunteers – Scott will flag the area of Norway maples that need to be pulled. Mimi will schedule the date.

New Business

Who's going to the State Cons Comm conference. Can we pay for someone or two? – We will wait to see what workshops are offered that will aid our commission and who wants to go. Carolyn thought that new members to our commission should go at least once to learn about our ties to the rest of the state and gain a basic knowledge of what Commissions should be doing.

Dates: Site walks Town Forest: TBA

Next Meeting: Monday, October 6, 7:00 pm. Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Enz Page