

Strafford Conservation Commission
Minutes
July 9, 2012

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

Guests: Phil Auger Randy Jacunski

Opening and Introductions

The meeting was opened at 7:04 pm. A motion was made by Liz and seconded by Kerry to accept the April 2012 **minutes**. Approved. (No meeting in May) A motion was made by Liz and seconded by Scott to accept the June 2012 minutes. Approved. Randy Jacunski, who has spent many hours working on trails, joined us for the meeting.

Guest Presentations

DES application none

Phil Auger – Boy Scout Property Phil distributed a map of the Storer Boy Scout Reservation that covers more than 600 acres in the towns of Strafford, Barnstead and Pittsfield with about 100 acres in Strafford. Plans have been underway to put the land into a conservation easement including all of Adams Pond and about a third of Wild Goose Pond. Public access will be allowed during the off-season. Phil says that this project has been in process for a long time and they have been waiting for grant money to become available. There are now Aquatic Resource Mitigation funds for the Merrimack Valley Watershed of which this property is part. There will be a gap of about \$67000.00 between the available ARM money and what is needed to complete the easement. A Conservation Expense Worksheet (attached) was distributed. Phil is contacting the Conservation Commissions of the three towns for their support. Strafford has enough funds to contribute for our portion of the property. What is needed is a letter of support for the project by August 10.

MOTION: Dave moved that we write a letter in support this conservation easement, seconded by Scott. Approved unanimously.

Liz will write the letter. Phil will set a time for a site walk.

Old Business

IRCR –Harmony had high praise for the trails that have been built. We need to plan for continued maintenance of the trails. Harmony will contact Sarah Ward to see if an on-going arrangement can be made with Coe-Brown students needing Community Service hours.

Kiosk The holes for the posts have been dug by a backhoe. Wednesday, July 18 at 10:00 has been chosen to erect the structure:

Harmony will get the 8 bags quick curing cement

Scott will bring the water and a mixer

Dave will bring 2 x 4s for bracing

Gordon and Carolyn will have truck available for moving the structure, and an electric cement mixer and generator (if needed)

Liz will call to have the shingles re-nailed

Gordon will spray the bittersweet

Phil has been procuring a map for the kiosk. It was not ready for our meeting tonight.

Benches Phil and Joe Ciccarelli will build some Aldo Leopold benches with lumber supplied by Jim Almendinger.

Celebration Harmony is planning a ribbon cutting celebration at 10:00 on Saturday, August 11. The town, especially the work crews, are invited. There will be simple refreshments, map handouts and tours of the trails.

Evans Mountain

Gate locks Kerry reported that Don Clifford was getting together with the fellow who made the current locks to figure out what can be done. Better quality locks and guards need to be installed. The Conservation Commission is willing to contribute to the purchase of the new locks.

Two vandal - proof signs are needed at the corner of Evans Mt. Road and the woods road that runs along the base of the mountain. One sign needs to point the direction that Evans Mt. Road takes since it is not obvious. The other needs to say "No Motorized Wheeled Vehicles/ Gate Ahead." Liz will try to get these from the state. Bruce will see if his department has any available.

Property Access It is not known who put the boulders in place blocking the access to the proposed parking lot. We need to make some inquiries. Scott said that he didn't mind the blockage believing there is enough room to park in front of the boulders. A major problem is maintenance of the Class 6 road leading to the properties. Eric Rowe has been maintaining it for access to his home. Since the public will be using the road, we need to share in the cost. The selectmen are aware that this is a legitimate case, but are unable to resolve it. Phil feels that a trust fund for the property may be the best way to approach this dilemma. George Lovejoy is willing to talk to Eric about a solution.

Trail Planning To be discussed at a later time.

Town Forest

Bridge The Selectmen want a performance bond for the work to be done building the bridge. The construction company claims to have given us a bare-bones contract and there is no room for the additional cost. The Conservation Commission can supply the additional approximate \$800.00 for this bond.

MOTION: Harmony moved that we finance the performance bond, seconded by Scott. Approved

MOTION: Scott amended the previous motion to include "not to exceed \$1000.00". Carolyn seconded the motion. Approved.

New Business

Bruce found a Stink Pot Turtle in the Isinglass.

Summary/Adjournment

Next meeting date: Monday, August 6

7:00 pm. Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Enz Page