

Strafford Conservation Commission
March 6, 2023
Minutes

PRESENT: Michael Ferber, Randy Jacunski, Kerry Omand, Sue Barnes, Liz Evans, Dave Perkins, Mimi Jost
GUEST: Bill Vance

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Michael Ferber. Sue made a motion to accept the February minutes. Randy seconded. The motion passed.

GUEST PRESENTATION: Bill Vance joined us to talk about the many ash trees along town roadsides that are dying and to express his concern that many look as if they will eventually fall into roads or onto wires if they are not taken down soon. He said he had counted at least 20 that looked “ready to go”.

DES APPLICATION: Michael Whitcher’s DES Application for his 125-acre conservation development subdivision on Webber Rd. was presented and discussed. It was noted that Blandings turtles are present in that area.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Shillaber site walk took place February 13 and the feeling from those who attended is that it is an amazing piece of property that abuts Berry Brook and worth supporting. Moose Mountain Regional Greenways is in charge of this easement. The commission is in favor and agreed to donate up to \$10,000 towards this project.

NEW BUSINESS:

Under wildlife sightings, Randy reported seeing three otters on the IRCR, a barred owl and red-tailed hawk in his trees and an opossum (!) on his porch. Birds are starting to sing their early spring songs (mourning doves).

Liz talked about the legislative alert she received about Sununu possibly eliminating the requirement for foresters, soil scientists and wetland scientists to be licensed. We discussed this issue and some members will write letters to the Governor objecting to the removal of the licensing requirement.

And finally, Dave Perkins is stepping down after his many years as a member of the Strafford Conservation Commission. We thank him for his dedicated service.

UPCOMING EVENT:

Bear-Paw Annual Meeting, Coe-Brown in Northwood, Saturday, March 25th

Respectfully submitted,
Mimi Jost

Next Meeting: Monday, April 3, 7:00 pm