

Strafford Natural Resources & Land Use Committee
Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: 02/27/2024
Location: Strafford Town Hall

Attendees: Philip Lovejoy, Liz Evans, Eric Sideman, Phil Auger, Steve Leker, Joe Pomerleau and Laura Pomerleau
Absent: Katrina Amaral

- **Meeting** convened 4:25PM
- **Introductions**
- **Mission Statement** – Advance the communities desire to protect Strafford’s rural landscapes, open space blocks, and natural resources, while planning to accommodate the town’s future growth
 - All in agreement, no amendments
- **Discussion items**
 - **Focus Areas**- Philip relayed focus areas of the committee to include land and landscape protection, sustaining agriculture/forestry, and planning for growth to include Village, development/conservation areas and affordable housing
 - **Connect to Protect** – Philip applied to see what resources could be available to help the mission. Waiting to hear back
 - **Funding** - Will the committee need funding for execution of goals, projects – TBD. If so, would need to be included for the 2025 budget
 - **Mapping** - Liz presented several natural resource inventory maps from past years (70’s/80’s/90’s) delineating soil surveys, agricultural land area overlayed onto towns parcels. Philip talked with the group on the potential for developing new maps for the Town
 - **National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS)** – Eric proposed the survey of agriculture which is collected annually – may provide insight into those Strafford residents in Farming/Ag activities
- **Goals/Ideas**
 - **Natural Resource Inventory (NRI)** a priority, requested by Planning Board – ongoing discussion
 - **Idea**- interactive map, with overlays that would be accessible via the town website
 - **Join the Club** idea to incorporate Strafford residents that are currently involved in agriculture activities, wish to be, and/or interested in supporting local agriculture, bringing community awareness to the natural resources and land use that make up Strafford
 - Initial info-gathering meeting date set for April 13th @ 4PM, Waldron’s Store
 - **Who?** Invite existing Strafford residents, with focus on Farming/Ag activities
 - **How?** Post the meeting via the Strafford Community Calendar (deadline 3/15 for entries). Signs in locations at Library, post office, Isinglass Store, Strafford Facebook page?
 - **What?** Survey, open discussion regarding idea and who would be interested in participating, if it became a recurring event(s) in/around town
 - Farm days? Street Signs? Club benefits? Networking? Services?
- **Action Items**
 - **Eric** to contact NASS, to obtain a list of Strafford residents that may fall under the agricultural umbrella
 - **Philip** will research opportunities for new GIS mapping to see what’s available for committee purposes, and will draft a write-up on the April 13th even for Strafford’s Community Calendar
 - **Laura & Joe** post to Facebook, work on signage and survey questions
- **Next meeting – TBD**
- Meeting adjourned 5:11PM 02/27/2024