

STRAFFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
November 6, 2023 MINUTES

PRESENT: Randy Jacunski, Liz Evans, Mimi Jost, Scott Young, Kerry Omand, Michael Ferber, Debbie Liskow, Sue Barnes

The meeting was called to order by Scott Young at 7:05 pm. Randy made a motion to accept the October 2nd minutes and Mimi seconded. The motion passed.

DES application: none

GUEST PRESENTATION: none

OLD BUSINESS: none

IRCR:

- Bittersweet still needs pruning
- Discussed vegetation control flanking the start of the Cow Path trail. Mimi will do more research.

STF/Evans/Parker

- Beavers flood the logging road. Does the trail need rerouting?
- Reviewed suggestions for trail system including regarding blazing and additional signage
- M Loop trail maintenance complete. Plan to mark woodland portion of trail with longer lasting orange plastic blazes.
- Reminder that Spencer Smith water bars will need raking this fall
- Annual invasives control on Drumlin done
- Upper field at entry brush hogged
- Beech leaf disease outbreak notes at three points along upper Loop Trail
- The Pick Up after Dog signs arrived and were approved for installation-one on each kiosk (IRCR and Spencer Smith trail), Meadow Loop trail entrance at base of Pig Lane, one at Town Forest gate. Also updated a kiosk/online posting titled: **About our Town Conservation Lands**
- Assisted genetics study of Eastern Hemlock by collecting material and placing metal tags on 4 hemlocks within the greater bounds of the Strafford Town Forest and one at Isinglass River Conservation Reserve. Leading the range wide hemlock study is Karl Fetter PhD-Plant Computational Genomics Lab/UCONN.

Other

- Shillaber CE Project update: Veronica Bodge/MMRG is applying for a third grant , this one from NHDES.
- Reviewed Michael's merge/purge edits of several documents prior to posting online. Well condensed into a document labelled **Strafford Town Conservation Land**.

NATURE NOTES: Roving grackle flocks feasting on abundant white pine and beech nuts.

Low autumn numbers of black crickets and lady beetles, but high numbers of brown stink bugs. Introduction to Paw Paw fruit.

Adjourned: 8:12 pm

NEXT MEETING: Monday, December 6th, 7 pm Town Hall Site Walk: none

Recorded by,
Scott Young