

STRAFFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

May 24, 2022

Morrill Education Center

Board members in attendance: Kate Bass, Micki Colbeck, James Erbaugh,

Mike Hebb, and Greg McHugo.

Not present: Steve Faccio, Chuck Sherman, and J.T. Horn.

1. **Minutes:** Approved the meeting minutes from March 29, 2022.
2. **Flood Resilient Communities grant:** Micki reported on the grant process and implementation. Around 600 to 800 trees were planted at various spots along the West Branch of the Ompomponoosuc, between the villages. Eric Reimanis and 35 students planted several hundred trees and tended to them at the Jacob's and Dovenek's properties during a workday and on follow up school days. Eric taught the students about riparian ecology to prepare them for the project. Micki stated that it was hard getting the community to engage in planting the rest of the trees, so she ended up planting many of them by herself. It was discussed about how we could have done this better as a group project in the future. The committee that approved the grant might have Eric and Micki speak to the state legislature about the project to encourage them to support small projects like this in the future. The funding for this project was federal ARPA money (\$4300 for 900 trees). It had to go through the Newton school rather than the town because the town was not up to date on its FEMA emergency plan.
3. **Trails report:** Mike Hebb reported he has done a lot of work on the trails at Cobb Forest and at the Hemenway ledges. He hauled and installed many more boards on the East trail to protect some very wet spots and he rerouted part of the trail. JT Erbaugh is now the official trail minder on Hemenway Ledges. He will be

leading a hike there on National Trails Day. Mike has organized a series of hikes on our town's forests and trails including a spring ephemeral hike, that Kate lead and a Cobb forest hike that Mike lead, and a birdwatching hike lead by Kathy Thompson and Susan Tiholiz. He has more coming up in the future.

4. **Emerald Ash Borer:** We decided to ask our town tree warden Bob Wilson to come to a meeting to keep us up to date on Ash tree removal.
5. **SCC vacancy:** JTE and the board discussed the wording of the SCC vacancy posting. JT will give it to Lisa who will post it.
6. **Next meeting:** Next meeting is 7 pm June 28th
7. **Vote to adjourn,** seconded, motion carried.

Micki Colbeck, recording secretary.