

STRAFFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

August 24th, 2021

Morrill Education Center

Present: Micki Colbeck, Mike Hebb, Steve Faccio, Chuck Sherman, Gregory McHugo and Steve Willbanks, Chair.

- 1) March 23<sup>rd</sup>, April 27<sup>th</sup> and May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021, minutes approved.
- 2) Organizational meeting: Elected: Steve Willbanks, Chair; Kate Bass Root, Vice Chair/Secretary; and Micki Colbeck, Asst. Recording Secretary.
- 3) Electric Bicycle Discussion: Whitcomb Hill deed prohibits motorized vehicles, as does the Town Trail #14 Ordinance. Otherwise, except for the Cobb Town Forest trails, the the Town Trail system is located on private properties and subject to the owners' preferences. Since E-bikes have not as yet created a controversy, the SCC has no opinion on them.
- 4) Trails Report: update by Mike. The Hemenway trail from the Cobb Town Forest to Hemenway Road is heavily overgrown and maintenance will be a chore. There was discussion about the possibility of re-routing, subject to owners' permission, the trail through the woods.
- 5) Ashley Community Forest: update by Micki. Discussions between Strafford and Sharon on the terms of the inter-local agreement are on-going. Micki believes that agreement will likely be reached by the end of the summer.
- 6) The Association of Vermont Communities (AVC) has arranged with landowners near the Manning Trail to create a small parking area and has grant funds to construct. There is a similar plan for a parking area near the Winding Brook Farm trail. Both parking areas are on Robinson Road. The AVC has asked the SCC to write a letter of support for the projects to the Strafford Selectboard. A motion to support the construction of the parking areas was made and approved unanimously.
- 7) Stream Bank Restoration Project: Micki reported that a source of tree stock for riverbank plantings has been found and Newton School Teacher Erik Reimanis plans to initiate this restoration project with his students in the spring.
- 8) There was a discussion about reports of a disease spreading among song birds.
- 9) Donations to SCC projects must now go through the Town Office for better record-keeping and accountability.
- 10) Next meeting is Tuesday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
- 11) Motion to adjourn; seconded; motion carried.

Submitted by Steve Willbanks, assisted by Micki Colbeck.