

STRAFFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

May 25th, 2021

Morrill Education Center

Present: Steve Wilbanks, Micki Colbeck, Mike Hebb, Kate Bass Root, Chuck Sherman, and Gregory McHugo

- 1) Introduction of newest SCC member, Gregory McHugo. Welcome!!
- 2) March 23rd and April 27th, 2021, minutes approved
- 3) Organizational meeting postponed until next month (again). An SCC member, not present tonight, had been considering taking on the chairmanship role. Steve will continue on for now.
- 4) Trails Report, Mike: Two trail closures noted. The entire White Rock Trail and also the portion of Whitcomb Hill Trail now owned by Dorian Yates. Mike has negotiated with neighboring land owners (Richard Mills and Gretchen May) for Whitcomb Trail to cross their land instead. Sherm and Bob Wilson re-routed this new section of trail. Mike's fundraising effort for the Cobb Forest eastern loop brought in over \$4000. Since only \$1600 was needed, a new "Trails and Cobb Forest Fund' is being established. A big thanks to all who participated in the creation of the new boardwalk: Jeff Solsaa, Pat Kelly, Michael Sacca, Doc Bagley, Steve Faccio, Will Cooney, Beth Sekinger and Mike. It is 95% ready now, according to Mike, and has made a huge improvement in this beautiful trail. Mike is considering offering a guided tour this coming weekend.
- 5) Ashley Community Forest: update by Micki. Negotiations between Strafford and Sharon will begin soon over issues of shared use.
- 6) SCC's Google Drive Shared Folder: Steve W. encouraged all SCC members to review the draft management plans for the three Town recreational areas and the draft Open Space Plan.
- 7) Outlook: Finish wetland inventory.
- 8) Stream Bank Restoration Project: Micki reported that Eric Reimanis is busy with end of the year school obligations and may have to curtail his students' riverbank restoration project this season, but he hopes to be able to use locally-sourced willow and fern transplants/whips in the future. Kate will also look into sources of plant material for Erik.
- 9) Next meeting is Tuesday, June 22, 2021.
- 10) Motion to adjourn passed and seconded. Motion carried.

Submitted by Kate Bass Root, SCC recording secretary