

STRAFFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

October 26th, 2021

Morrill Education Center

Board members present: Micki Colbeck, Mike Hebb, Steve Faccio, Gregory McHugo, J.T. Horn, Kate Bass, and Steve Willbanks, Chair. David Paganelli by Zoom. Others present: J.T Erbaugh

- 1) August 24, 2021, minutes approved.
- 2) Introduction of J.T. Erbaugh, who is interested in serving on the SCC. He lives in Strafford, teaches Environmental Studies at Dartmouth, and has worked for the Nature Conservancy.
- 3) Discussion about whether deeryards need extra protections written into the guidelines for building permits. Board voted to not single deer yards out for extra protection.
- 4) J.T. Horn spoke about Ashley town forest. Gift will go forward if both towns can agree on conservation easement and interlocal agreement. Several board members did not seem to be in favor of the gift, one looking for residential housing possibilities, and one, from Sharon, looking at the legality of the wording of both documents. The group of four who are working on the two documents are rewriting them and hoping for approval. The SCC agreed to do some outreach into the community to ask for support.
- 5) Discussion of the Open Space Plan. SCC needs to read and review. Dave Paganelli agreed to update the plan with current data. J.T. Erbaugh volunteered to help. Every active farm in Strafford is in Current Use. Management plans are set. We just need to approve them and update this information to the web page.
- 6) Stephen Willbanks announced his resignation as chair and as a member of the board. The board members each expressed gratitude for his many years of volunteer service to our town.
- 7) Call for new officers. Kate Root volunteered to be Vice Chair; Micki Colbeck, to be Recording Secretary; It was requested of J.T. Erbaugh if he were to be approved to fill the vacancy on the board, would he be willing to serve as interim Chair, until the elections of officers in April. He agreed that he would.

- 8) Trails report from Mike Hebb: Each trail has an independent trail manager, who maintains their section. We have 30 miles of trails, each trail with a volunteer.
- 9) It was agreed to move the November meeting to the 30th. Stephen will reschedule with the state and with the education center.
- 10) Steve has Lisa post the agenda of our meeting on the website. There was some discussion about the protocols for posting agendas.
- 11) Micki Colbeck informed the group about a large parcel of property in Vershire that was once owned by John Hemenway that was recently purchased and is being closed off to all human use.
- 12) Discussion about the movement of families into Strafford because of COVID-19.
- 13) Next Meeting: November 30, 2021
- 14) Motion to adjourn; seconded; motion carried.