

Strafford Conservation Commission
May 20th, 2023
7:00-8:00 PM at the Morrill Education Center

Board members in attendance: Micki Colbeck, Kate Bass, Chuck Sherman, Anne Fayen, and Mike Hebb. Community member Kitty Mackie was also in attendance.

Minutes from May 2nd meeting approved.

1. Mallard population at Hemenway's- We have more questions for Steve Faccio /Fish and Wildlife before we grant permission for the state to do any banding on the population. Discussion tabled until Steve is here to answer questions on Avian Flu, education opportunity, etc.
2. Opening on SCC- We have received 2 bios to date. Discussion on whether we wait for other bios or start the process of recommending a person to the Selectboard.
3. Celebration of trail managers and landowners- Micki made a great spreadsheet. We are looking to make a committee to further this effort, which will happen in October probably. Discussion of food, live music. TBD-exact date and form a committee. Kate will talk to Tracey McFadden about Homestead's availability.
4. Trails Report- Gorgeous new boardwalks at the Cobb Town Forest east loop. New sighting of Early Coral Root. Very exciting. Lovely Rattlesnake Plantain population.
5. SCC Hikes- Turnouts have been very good to date. Very happy with the hikes so far. Discussion on how best to advertise these walks. More uniformity perhaps would be beneficial. Thetford Listserv a possibility?
6. Discussion on Manning Trail and whether it should be incorporated into our trail system. No consensus here so we need to discuss it further. Question about Conserved Land and whether trails were a mandate on these lands.
7. Invasives Report- Anne gave a summary of work to date done by her, Courtney, and Kate. Girdling of the larger Burning Bush will happen soon and the community pulling day will be organized in the fall. Anne is working to determine where the boundary with Homestead is exactly. Mike is working on chervil at the Homestead.
8. Micki will ask Lisa to join the Upper Valley Trail Alliance, as we voted in favor of that last meeting.

9. Gus and Cameron's movie recommendation- Stuart Udall Politics of Beauty. Community screening of. Voted in favor to make this happen. Micki will pursue with Gus. Maybe \$150 fee. 78 minutes long.
10. Moss Club- Mike may be interested in starting this up again.
11. Chuck expressed interest in retiring from the SCC. Discussion on why he should wait until AFTER the Trails Managers and Landowners Celebration.

Next Meeting; June 27th.

Kitty was asked to leave so that we could discuss the vacancy. Micki will invite other candidates to attend the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Kate Bass