

## STRAFFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

September 27, 2016

### MINUTES

Present at the Morrill Education Bldg. at 7 p.m. were commission members: Mike Hebb, Tii McLane, Jared Jenisch, Kate Root, Chuck Sherman and Steve Willbanks, Chair.

Approved 7/26/'16 Minutes. (August meeting cancelled for lack of a quorum.)

- Discussion: Review Open Space Plan for the Next Town Plan
  - In the Short Term, Strafford would like to adopt the next update of the Town Plan by year's end. The Open Space Plan is being reviewed and incorporated into the "Land Use" section of the Town Plan.
  - The Open Space Plan, last revised in 2010, has been reviewed and updated by Michael Storace of the Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission. SCC members should review the revised Open Space Plan and make comments. We would like to make sure there is a consistent message between our Town Plan and the Open Space Plan, especially in reference to our Zoning Districts and Land Use.
- Taylor Valley Buckthorn Removal Project
  - The Buckthorn Removal project was a great success. More than 20 local residents put in 78.5 hours of volunteer effort to pull smaller seedlings and flag larger plants for chemical treatment. The project was paid for through grants and matching funds. Thanks to Tii for all her organizational and coordinating efforts.
- Trail & Bridge Report: Mike
  - Throughout the trail-network, Mike has replaced yellow tape with yellow paint on tree blazes.
- Wetlands: Jared & Kate reported on recent expeditions.
- Old Business: It was agreed to host a forum to help educate the town about New Vista and invite the Alliance of Vermont Communities (VCA), an organization opposed to New Vista, and the Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission to explain the regional and local implications of a project that scale.
- Next Meeting: October 25, '16: New Vista Forum: 7 p.m., Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, Barrett Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Willbanks, Acting Secretary