

Strafford Conservation Commission
27 May 2014

Present at meeting : Amy Metz, Jared Jenisch, Matt Perry, John Hemenway, Steve Willbanks, Mike Hebb

27 May 2014 Meeting Minutes:

Actions:

- NEW :Mike – Get estimate from Arrowwood Consulting regarding wetlands inventory scope.
- NEW: Jared/Steve – Investigate if Town will match funds from New England Grass Roots organization for Wetlands Inventory
- ONGOING: Wetlands Sub-Committee- meet bi-weekly for Wetlands Project Planning.
- IN PROGRESS: Tii investigate VTRANS funding for wildlife crossing mapping. Tii has emailed a contact at VTRANS and gotten no response. Instead she has been working with intern Michelle Shane on a local roadside tracking project. Michelle reported at this meeting and will provide final report when it is finished.
- IN PROGRESS : Steve - Check with Dave Paganelli regarding Forest Management Plan for Whitcomb Hill. Steve has taken this action over from J.T.
- NEW: J.T. and Steve will follow up on ideas for the creation of SCC by-laws. Steve will see if he can get a set of by-laws from a neighboring town.
- NEW: Amy - Send Whitcomb Hill Management Plan.
- New: Steve will talk to Fred Satinick (Town Insurer for League of Cities and Towns) regarding recommended signage for Old City Falls (if needed).

Discussions:

- SCC Meeting Location Change – The SCC has decided to move their monthly meetings to the Justin Morrill Homestead Education Building. Steve Wilbanks has reserved this space with the State for the fourth Tuesday of every month. The State has the right to use the building if there is a higher priority meeting.
- Organizational meeting – The next SCC meeting, irregularly scheduled on the third Tuesday of the month (June 17), will be an “Organizational Meeting,” meaning we will vote on who should hold the following administrative roles for the Committee:
 - SCC Chair
 - SCC Secretary
 - SCC TreasurySteve will get a sample of by-laws from a neighboring town.
- Wildlife Road-Crossing Cameras- Vote on Wildlife Camera purchase - Tii was unable to make this month’s meeting therefore we decided to hold on the vote since she is a major stakeholder.
- Maple Hill Road Culvert- Outcome of Selectboard meeting – Amy Metz and Ron Rhodes (CT River Watershed Council) attended the Select Board Meeting on 23 Apr 2014 to discuss

next steps for the Maple Hill Road project and get approval to submit an application for the Better Back Roads of VT. The match would be funded by the Phase 3 MEF grant in the SCC funds (~6K). The Select Board approved submitting this application to be completed by the Town Clerk and Road Foreman. Unfortunately the application was overtly not submitted by the deadline on May 5 at 5pm due to questions regarding the match funds. The Select Board also approved the relocation of the Maple Hill Road Dry Hydrant to the Miller Pond Area. Dave Kendall was there to represent his coordination with Troy Dare. The Town approved plowing into Miller Pond to get access to the new relocated hydrant.

- Wetlands Inventory – Tii is stepping down from the Wetlands Committee. Mike called Arrowwood Consulting (Point of Contact- Michael Newsmith) to request an estimate for training volunteer field staff and stereoscopic aerial photo interpretation. The Wetlands Sub-Committee (Jared, Mike, and Steve) met with Pete Fellows who discussed other potential funding from the New England Grass Roots Organization. They provide seed funds and could potentially fund volunteer training for wetland identification. This organization likes town match funds (only a few hundred dollars would help) because it shows that The Town is vested.
- Trails– Mike will lead a 10-mile hike for National Trails Day on June 7 on the Cross Town trail from south to north. Meet at park and ride at 7:30.
 - The Lady Slipper Orchid Hike at the Town Forest is scheduled for June 21
- Old City Falls – The new hood is in, completed by Rhett Emerson and looks fantastic. We are waiting for the bill to compensate him for this work. Matt Perry is talking to Kelly Hall regarding repairs for the outhouse. There was a question about signage. Steve will see what Fred Satinick (Town Insurer for League of Cities and Towns).
- TRORC USFS Grant - Report of meeting with Taylor Valley group – Meeting cancelled. Nothing new to report.
- Invasives Management – Tii recommend via mail to see if Eli Mintz could help with clearing. The Committee agreed that this may not be a good use of his time. Steve believes we can organize some pulling parties and that there is enough town interest to help with controlling invasives. There may be a pulling party on June 16 focused on poisonous parsnip and Japanese knotweed.

Next Meeting Agenda: 17 June 2014

- Organizational Meeting
- Wildlife Road-crossing survey: Vote on Wildlife Camera purchase
- Maple Hill Road Culvert Project
- Wetlands Inventory: Project design and funding possibilities
- Trails
- Old City Falls
- TRORC USFS Grant: Report of meeting with Taylor Valley group.
- Invasives Management

Amy Metz (SCC member)

< _____, Recording Secretary >