

## STRAFFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

July 26, 2016

### MINUTES

Present at the Morrill Education Bldg. at 7 p.m. were commission members: Amy Metz, Mike Hebb, Tii McLane, Jared Jenisch and Steve Willbanks, Chair. Also present was Steve Campbell (Strafford Planning Commission) and Michael Storace (TRORC)

- Approved 6/28/'16 Minutes.
- 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-end. The Open Space Plan is being reviewed and incorporated into the “Natural Resources” section of the Town Plan. Steve Campbell is leading this effort from the Planning Commission and working with Michael Storace from Two Rivers Outtaouchee Regional Commission.
  - The Open Space Plan last revision was in April 2010 and therefore needs to be reviewed and updated. 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 Natural Resources
  - Steve C. presented a few notable changes to the Draft Town Plan. First he presented the new (draft) Land and Forest Habitat zoning overlay which identifies large contiguous blocks of open space and gives awareness to wildlife corridors and other environmentally sensitive lands. Secondly he talked about how the permit process will be approved based on conditional use. This means that the Town has a right to review the impacts for any permit request.
  - Open Space Updates recognized in the meeting
    - Remove contradictory definitions of “Open Space.”
    - More language about the Taylor Valley area
    - Update Sawyer Mountain Rd to Hemenway Rd
    - Review other important open space lands identified by Linking Lands Alliance, Town Wetlands Inventory, etc. We also could identify sites not sufficient for Energy Projects. Energy Projects are approved via the Service Review Board.
- Discussion: Taylor Valley Buckthorn Removal Project (Tii)
  - Tii attending Selectboard Meeting on Wednesday. Tii will draft a story on what we are doing to combat invasives.
  - Received a draft contract from State. \$1500 is still needed to complete the match. Tii has written to the Byrne Foundation to see if they can help.

- Tii sent out an email with pulling dates to recruit volunteers. VT Coverts will be sponsoring the pulling event on August 20. Volunteers will be advised on what to wear and how to prepare themselves for the day.
- Orchid Tour/Trail & Bridge Maintenance plan: Mike
  - Orchid tours were another huge success and even better than last year.
  - Mike drafted a Trail Maintenance Plan for volunteers who maintain the trail
- Wetlands Update: Jared/Kate
  - Goal is to complete about 8 surveys and we have completed 2 to date.
- New Business: No new business
- Next Meeting: Aug. 23, '16

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Metz, Secretary