

STRAFFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

March 29, 2022

Morrill Education Center and ZOOM

Board members in attendance: Mike Hebb, Kate Bass, Greg McHugo, James Erbaugh, Micki Colbeck, Steve Faccio, Dave Paganelli. Chuck Sherman on Zoom. J.T. Horn was not present.

- 1) Approved the meeting minutes from February 22, 2022.
- 2) 4-Town meeting summary by Micki Colbeck:
  - a) Conservation Planning Biologist with Vermont Fish and Wildlife, Jens Hilke will be giving tutorials to two towns' conservation commissions on Bio-finder, a tool for mapping conservation areas. Micki will ask Jens to lead a tutorial in Strafford.
  - b) Thank you to Mike Hebb who has volunteered to make trail signs for Manning Farm Trails.
  - c) A SUNY Environmental Studies professor and her students will be studying the Ashley Community Forest as a possible model for cross community conservation projects. Their goal is to publish a paper in an environmental planning journal.
  - d) Send notification of the next 4-Town meeting to our members.
- 3) Trails: Mike asked for more of us to volunteer to lead walks on the town trails. Kate will lead a spring ephemeral walk; Micki, a fern walk in September; Mike, an orchid walk. Mike wants to buy a battery-operated weed-wacker. Vote approved for \$400 for the purchase.
- 4) Ashley Community Forest update: The two selectboards have chosen four members, Dave Paganelli and Annie Penfield from Strafford, and Rob Stainton (Sharon Academy) and Erik Skarsten from Sharon. The 5<sup>th</sup> member will be chosen from two

- applicants, Steve Faccio and Michael Sacca. They are meeting tomorrow. Will be setting up a friend's group to do projects and raise money. What is the role of SCC in Ashley?
- 5) Forest Management Plan: Dave P. presented his forest management plan of the Cobb Town Forest. He is open to all comments and corrections. It is quite an extensive body of work. The boundaries on the ground are not in dispute, however the GPS details are a bit fuzzy and will be so until the property is surveyed sometime in the future. Right now, there is a slight acreage discrepancy.
  - 6) Other business: DEC Department of Environmental Conservation is who we contact if we see violations along the river, i.e., sewage or garbage dumping. Chuck Sherman will talk with Steve Handy about cleaning up his abandoned building site on the riverbanks and see if we can help in a clean-up.
  - 7) Dave Paganelli is resigning his post on the SCC to serve on two other town boards. We will miss him and his expert advice on all forest and ecology matters. We need to look for a replacement member to recommend to the selectboard.
  - 8) Next meeting is Tuesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>
  - 9) EAB discussion of parasitoid wasps and what our ash trees may look like in the future.
  - 10) Vote to adjourn, seconded, motion carried.

Micki Colbeck, recording secretary.