

Strafford Conservation Commission

Minutes

June 24, 2025

Strafford Town Office 7:00 PM

Courtney Potter, Micki Colbeck, Mike Hebb, Anne Fayen, Andrei Kubail Kalousdian, Erin Yunger, Elizabeth Howland, Kate Bass,

- Approved minutes from May 27, 2025, meeting.
- Welcome our two new members to the board: Elizabeth Howland, Andrei Kubail Kalousdian.
- Discussion by Kate and Anne of a grant application to deal with invasive nonnative species at the Homestead, which spill over into the shared stream banks with the Library. This project is spearheaded by Charlotte Faccio of the Friends group. Charlotte asked if we would submit a letter of support to strengthen her grant application. If the money comes through, we will help publicize their effort and help recruit the public for workdays. Kate and Anne will work on our letter of support.
- Kate and Micki will attend Thursday's selectboard meeting to suggest greater protection for the Cobb Town Forest. Perhaps putting it under a Land Trust ownership would conserve it in perpetuity.
- Trails and guided hikes update: Mike will do listserv publicity for this week's orchid hike at the fen. Upcoming events: Crafting with Natural Materials with Kate and Courtney, sometime in August; River Walks with Erin in September; Mosses, Ferns, and lesser purple fringed orchids at the fen with Micki and Levi in August. Friday, Mike, Micki, and Ed Huang repaired sinking boardwalks at the fen and extended some of them. Andrei volunteered to adopt the Alger Brook to Pennock 2-mile trail.

- Emerald Ash Borer is in Cobb Forest in the East loop and at Miller Pond. A group of indigenous basket makers would like to have a few logs from infected trees that are still alive. We will reach out to share our concerns about how to harvest the logs without doing damage to the fen. We prefer they do the cutting in winter, after marking the trees now. Micki will write to them and have them reach out to Mike.
- Kate connected with the graduate student doing research on moths that pollinate the white bog orchid. She did her research in Kate's fen, setting up motion-activated cameras to record the moths at night. They discovered many uncommon orchids—the white bog candles, the green bog orchid, and a Hooker's orchid.
- Micki reported on the loons from Miller Pond. They are renesting by the boat put-in after a failed attempt in the western marsh.
- Next meeting, July 22, 2025
- Voted to adjourn