

STRAFFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes 23 June 2015

Present at the Justin Morrill Education Building at 7:00 p.m., were commission members John Hemenway, Kate Root, Mike Hebb, Chuck Sherman, Amy Metz, J.T. Horn and Steve Willbanks (Chair). Also in attendance were Pat Kelly and Tim McCormick.

Meeting Minutes:

- Tim McCormick – Oversees Old City Falls:
 - a. Some erosion on the path and we may want to support with logs and pegs.
 - b. The ramp to the outhouse gets very wet and slippery so Mike suggested nailing some chicken wire on top of the ramp.
 - c. We approved Tim to put up a sign to clean up after your pets.
 - d. It would be nice to get a little help raking, once in the spring and again in the fall. Kate mentioned that high school students in Sharon and Thetford are required to perform a certain amount of community service in order to graduate. Also there is an ODW (Operation Days Work) program that has been used in the past however this is a pay for service where the proceeds go towards a charity.
- Approved 26 May 2015 Minutes
- Elizabeth Mine Solar Array: Dori has asked for letter of support from SCC. Steve will draft a letter that we can all review. There are some outstanding questions that should be answered per Act 248.
- Trails and Hikes :
 - a. Mike sent an email to Trail Maintenance volunteers regarding how to maintain the trails.
 - b. Orchid Tours - The orchid tour was well attended. There was about 90 visitors last Saturday and one black bear sighting. Last orchid hike will be Saturday June 27.
 - c. Volunteers covering almost the entire trail except for the Town House Trail.
 - d. Podunk Pond tour – Not very well attended. No new discussions.
- Wetlands Inventory: Conducted about 5 wetlands field surveys to date. Kate led one tour with Steve Faccio where the wetland was identified as a fen due to the flora (ex. Cottongrass, ladyslippers). Another planned for this weekend. Jared conducted one survey and found a collection of pitcher plants.
- Invasive Plant Removal:
 - a. Sending around least wanted posters for invasive species as they become identifiable and appropriate to take preventative measures.
 - b. Taylor Valley Invasive Project – J.T. talked with NH Charitable Foundation. They will not fund unless there is a multi-year management plan post eradication. J.T. will draft up a multi-year plan. We are still investigating various sources for funding.

- Hazard Mitigation Committee: Chuck Sherman went to the second meeting on June 23. They are pulling information together on a map that shows the floodplains and culverts. Vulnerable areas or issues that need to be prioritized are: a.) Flash flood/fluvial erosion, b.) Severe summer weather, c.) Hurricane high winds and flooding, d.) Extreme cold/snow and e.) Invasives. Chuck had to leave the meeting early to attend the SCC meeting.
- Draft Bylaws: Approved Draft By-laws
- Approved paying the \$50 fee to become a member of the VT Conservation Commissions
- Next meeting: July 28, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Metz, Recording Secretary