

## STRAFFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

March 27, 2018

### MINUTES

Present at the Morrill Education Building at 7 p.m. were commission members: Kate Root, Mike Hebb, Jared Jenisch, Steve Faccio, Chuck Sherman, and Steve Willbanks, Chair; also community member and soon-to-be SCC member Micki Colbeck.

- **Minutes** from last meeting were discussed and a minor change to wording proposed; the minutes were accepted.
- **New member** Micki Colbeck (as of April, 2018) introduced herself. She shared a recent academic project, map of natural, cultural and agricultural features in Strafford; and talked about upcoming wetlands-related work for her degree.
- **Special places:** Steve W. shared the special places map associated with the Open Space Plan; and compared lists of recognized areas from the OSP and the Town Plan. It was asked whether there are places we would like to see recognized that are not on the maps; it was noted that it might be useful to include notable wildlife and plant communities. A few instances of natural resources are marked on the Town Plan: Rare, Threatened, & Endangered Species and Significant Communities. There followed discussion of wildlife corridors and habitat connectors as relevant to the maps.
- **Trails update:** reduced access has been imposed on south end of trail. Copperas Road is closed for EPA work up by mines. They are clearing land between the road and the South Cut. Question was raised of a walking trail beneath the power lines. There are parking problem at both ends; but some great view points along the way.
- **Wetlands:** Kate and Jared have had the first wetland meeting of the year. They are working on parceling out duties involved in wetland visits and documentation. A possible redistribution of tasks: Mike identifies wetlands and owners; Kate emails volunteers and owners; Kate and/or Jared lead wetland visits; Micki and possibly Steve F. write a summary description of the wetland; Jared creates the plant life spreadsheet and formalizes it after all have contributed their notes; and Kate sends the results to the landowner. They will begin assembling a list of volunteers for the new year.
- **Possible speakers:** Paul Gilles will do talks on Sunday afternoons and requires only cookies. Also it would be good to offer a presentation on the status and implications of the emerald ash borer incursion.

- Hemenway Bench: Kate will go this month to select font and design and purchase the bench.
- **Next meeting:** 4/24/18

Respectfully submitted,  
Jared Jenisch