

Strafford Conservation Commission Meeting
November 24, 2020
Via Zoom
Draft Minutes

Present: Micki Colbeck, Dave Paganelli, Mike Hebb, Chuck Sherman (Zoom host), Steve Faccio, J.T.Horn and Steve Willbanks, Chair.

No formal Minutes were taken at the 10/27/20 meeting. There were no motions and no actions taken. The discussions consisted of updates on fall trail inspections, a new section of trail in the Town Forest and the Ashley Community Forest project. Those in attendance were Chuck Sherman, Mike Hebb, Micki Colbeck, David Paganelli, and Steve Willbanks.

Ashley Community Forest Project: The Selectboard has tentatively selected January 18th as the date for an Australian ballot vote on the donation of the 106.7 acre-parcel in Strafford. (The Sharon parcel is 149.7 acres.) There was also a lengthy discussion about the extent of the Town's right-of-way into the Ashley property and where to find the formal documentation of TH44.

Conformance with Strafford Town Plan: Michael Sacca has requested that the Planning Commission review the ACF project for conformance with the Town Plan. Clearly, the ACF project adheres very closely to the goals and recommendations of the Land Use Chapter of the Town Plan, particularly in regard to recreation, farming, forestry, wildlife and open space protection and land and forest conservation. It was agreed that the SCC should also send a letter/email to the Selectboard emphasizing that the ACF project is exactly what the Town Plan envisions.

Richardson Trail: With support of the landowner, Dave Taplin, Mike is establishing this new trail in the southeast portion of Strafford, which is not far from Whitcomb Hill. It has both views and an abandoned farm with some truly exceptional stone wall work. There was a discussion on how it might eventually be connected to the Furnace Flat Road and the Whitcomb section of the Cross-Town Trail system. Thank you to Mike for initiating this exciting new project.

Open Position: The SCC unanimously agreed to recommend Will Cooney to the Selectboard to fill the position. Pending Will's confirmation that he is interested, his name will be forwarded to the Selectboard.

Next Meeting: There will be no meeting in December. Next meeting will be January 26, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen Willbanks, Secretary *pro temp*