

Strafford Conservation Commission
February 25, 2020

Present: Steve Willbanks., Chuck Sherman, Dave Paganelli, Kate Root, Jared Jenisch, JT Horne.

Steve commended JT for an excellent presentation to the selectboard on the Ashley Forest parcel.

Steve: Talked about Mike's new trail system, from behind the Town House to the Dodge Farm, which John Echeveria owns, in Tunbridge.

The question was raised as to precisely whose auspices the trail system rests. Mike's, the SCC's, the town of Strafford's?

Chuck: We as a commission should vote on whether or not to accept the new trail.

Kate: Kate and Jared will be meeting in two weeks to inaugurate the new wetland season. Kate and Paul Harwood will become vernal pool monitors in Strafford.

Steve: Ash Tree removal: John McKinnon got \$5000 added to budget for this. Dave will help him find people to do it if necessary. Inventory: there are 1200-1300 trees that are greater than 6 inches, leaning into the road right of way, and not leaning into power lines. The selectboard allocated \$5,000 now, which Dave says will save \$10,000 later. Better to hire arborists now before they become overextended.

Timeline on Emerald Ash Borer getting here: They're behaving differently in VT than anywhere else. There are 11 separate infestations and they are expanding, but not expanding much. And trees are not dying as quickly as expected.

Chuck: Could we use the cut ash trees, if not wanted by property owners, for a wood bank? Could SCC organize this as a community project?

JT: We could put a shared shed on the Ashley parcel.

Minutes from the last meeting were approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Jared Jenisch
Recording Secretary