

## STRAFFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes 28 April 2015

Present at the Town Clerk's Office at 7:00 p.m., were commission members Tii McLane, Jared Jenisch, Kate Root, Mike Hebb, J.T. Horn, Chuck Sherman, John Hemenway, and Amy Metz.

Meeting Minutes:

- Approved 24 March 2015 Minutes
- Tabled the vote to join the Association of VT Conservation Commissions till next meeting
- 2015 Spring/Summer Calendar/Events
  - a. Podunk Wildlife Area visit – John Buck would like to schedule for end of June.
  - b. Strafford Trail System
    - i. Volunteer appreciation picnic – Proposal only.
    - ii. June trail walks for National Trails Day and Lady Showy Slippers Orchid walks.
  - c. Wetlands – Sub-committee and volunteers will reconvene in early May. See Wetlands section of the minutes
  - d. Invasive Workshops – Proposed dates TBD.
- Maple Hill Culvert:
  - a. Received four bids for the Maple Hill Road Culvert project. We accepted Northwoods Excavating Inc. who came in with the lowest bid.
  - b. In discussion with Green Mountain Power to move power lines. GMP would like to make it a permanent move.
- Invasive Removal – Taylor Valley Road
  - a. Landowner letter draft complete. Suggested a couple of changes and waiting to hear back from Dave Paganelli regarding a letter of support to spray.
  - b. There are two or three landowners that we need to approach regarding the project.
  - c. J.T. put together a rough budget for the project, estimating about 10K
  - d. May not be able to secure full funding this year for a late summer project. We are considering doing project in phases for this reason.
  - e. ACTION: Tii will identify landowners and update landowner letter.
- Wetlands Inventory
  - a. Mike has already started identification. Mike is putting together a spreadsheet of what to collect and how to approach landowners.
  - b. Sub-committee and volunteers will reconvene early May at the café for a kick-off meeting and to review target areas for 2015.
  - c. Anticipating this wetland inventory to take a few years.
- Trails

- a. We have trail maintenance volunteers for almost the entire network. Still need to find coverage for the lower half of the Town House Trail.
  - b. Tii proposed re-routing her section of the Cross Town Trail.
- Draft SCC Bylaws:
  - a. J.T proposed to add a new paragraph to the Principal Functions section.
  - b. Mike concerned with the references to historic and architectural resources. Will discuss at the next meeting.
  - c. ACTION - Steve to look at the statutes and approve J.T.'s addition.
- New Business
  - a. Paul Harwood and Mike Hebb will be conducting a field visit at the Town Forest.
  - b. Vermont Center for Eco-studies hosts a “Suds and Science” the first Tuesday of the month; 7pm at the Norwich Inn. May 5th presentation from Charlie Cogbill, discussing how he has been trying to reconstruct VT forests prior to European Settlement.
  - c. Succession Planning Workshops for Woodland Landowners by Vermont Woodlands Association and UVM Extension.
    - i. May 9 in Rutland and June 2 in Fairlee. Registration found here:  
<http://www.vermontwoodlands.org/workshops.asp>.
    - ii. ACTION: Amy will post to listserv.
- Old Business
  - a. Chuck Sherman will be attending the first Hazard meeting on Thursday May 7.

Next meeting: May 26, 2015

Agenda:

- Organizational Meeting to vote Chair, Treasury, and Secretary
- Vote to join the Association of VT Conservation Commissions
- Vote on By-laws

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Metz, Recording Secretary