

STRAFFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

November 26, 2019

Minutes

Present at the Morrill Education Building at 7pm were commission members: Steve Faccio, Steve Wilbanks, Chair, Micki Colbeck, Kate Root, Dave Paganelli, Mike Hebb and Chuck Sherman.

- MINUTES from 8/27/2019 and 9/24/2019 were approved.
- NATURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY: The meeting in N. Thetford reported by Micki. In summary, 'Thetford recently funded a Natural Resource Inventory, which included mapping important natural resources such as interior forest blocks and connectivity routes. The purpose of an NRI is to engage the citizens to help locate and protect important ecosystems and to educate them about the importance of various ecosystems. We asked Micki to find out more information regarding funding sources and check out any relevant websites.
- GRAND LIST ASSESSMENT CHANGE: Steve W. talked briefly about the Listers' decision to assess each lot under common ownership separately, which would mean that some owners would choose to merge the lots to avoid higher assessments, but would then they would need to subdivide in order to sell what were originally separate parcels.
- COBB TOWN FOREST: Dave and Mike have marked the N and W and part of the S sides of the property. The boundaries are now fully blazed. Dave is working on the Forest Management Plan. Micki's Cobb Town Forest Map was highly praised and it was noted that we are lucky to have this resource provided by Micki in our town. A few suggestions were made and Micki will work on these.
- AMPHIBIANS AND FROG JUMPING CONTEST: Decided that we take this July 4th tradition as an opportunity to educate the community, especially children, on the traits, values, and special place amphibians hold in this and the world-wide eco-system. Kate will talk with the Newton School Science teacher about this. Steve Faccio will come up with a draft pamphlet to have available on the day of the contest.
- ASHLEY COMMUNITY FOREST UPDATE: More details forthcoming soon.
- TOWN WEBSITE CONTENT: Many thanks to Mike and Micki for their great work on this. Hopefully, there may be more Story Maps in the future.

- OLD BUSINESS: A) The Selectboard wants more time to consider how the SCC Reserve Funds should be used. There are some accounting issues that need to be resolved. B) Ash tree removal: the inventory has been done by Bob and Carol Wilson and David Paganelli recommended that we invite Bob to a meeting to discuss how to go forward.
- NEW BUSINESS: Chuck reports that “Mink” the sow bear captured in Hanover last year and relocated, traveled through Strafford on her long meandering journey from near the Canadian to return to this area.
- Next meeting Jan. 28, 2020

Respectfully submitted:

Kate Bass, secretary *pro tem*