

Strafford Conservation Commission
22 April 2014

Present at meeting : Amy Metz, Tii McLane, Jared Jenisch, Matt Perry, John Hemenway, Steve Willbanks, Craig Layne (Norwich Conservation Commission)

22 April 2014 Meeting Minutes:

Actions:

- IN PROGRESS *Amy* – *Contact Select board for appointment of Steve Willbanks to SCC.* This was done but Brent Cadwell has not yet responded. Amy will follow up
- IN PROGRESS *Tii/Mike/Jared* – *Meet to align on Wetlands Inventory actions for request of funding.* This group met to discuss project. It was decided that Tii would call Michael Lew-Smith of Arrowwood Environmental, and Kevin Peterson from NH Charitable (handles MEH funding proposals). This was done and details are below. The group plans to meet again bi-weekly until the project is designed.
- IN PROGRESS–*Tii investigate VTRANS funding for wildlife crossing mapping.* Tii has emailed a contact at VTRANS and gotten no response. Instead she has been working with intern Michelle Shane on a local roadside tracking project. Michelle reported at this meeting and will provide final report when it is finished.
- IN PROGRESS - *JT* - *Check with Dave Paganelli regarding Forest Management Plan for Whitcomb Hill. 29 Oct - JT to schedule meeting with Dave.* Email discussion ongoing.
- NEW: Amy and Tii will follow up with Ron Rhodes about the status of landowner applications and funding sources for a culvert replacement.
- NEW: Amy or Tii will find out deadline for Better Back Roads VT.
- NEW: Amy will attend the next Selectboard meeting to discuss the culvert replacement project.
- NEW: Tii will invite Craig Layne to present information on roadside cameras at the next meeting
- NEW: Mike will follow up with Steve Faccio to see if he can come to the next meeting, and if not, would he provide us with commentary or questions to guide us in our meeting with Craig.
- NEW: Tii will tell Town Clerk that Matt is the new treasurer.
- NEW: J.T. and Steve will follow up on ideas for the creation of SCC by-laws.

Discussions:

- Invasive Species workshop – The SCC meeting started one hour later to accommodate the Invasive Species Workshop hosted by the State, at the Justin Morrill Homestead. The workshop helped interested parties learn to identify the invasive plants found around the area, what makes them invasive and how to control them. Mary Beth Adler (Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department) and Marie Levesque Caduto (Vermont Agency of Natural Resources) trained participants to identify terrestrial and aquatic plants and animals that are threatening ecosystems in Vermont and New Hampshire. They also discussed control methods and how

to keep "invasives" from spreading even farther.

- Presentation by Craig Layne – Wildlife cameras – Craig Layne from the Norwich Conservation Commission talked to us about his experience with the wildlife camera footage they have been collecting in an effort to track wildlife crossings over roads. They have 8 cameras on a stretch of Beaver Meadow set about 10 to 20 ft off the road. They are using Bushnell Trophy cameras that cost less than \$200, about \$250 when you add the protection box and lock cable. Cameras take lithium batteries that last about a year and they are set up to shoot regular exposure footage during the day and infrared at night. Craig showed us some phenomenal footage of moose, bear, and (by far the best) a bobcat!

The SCC may be interested in purchase a few cameras (four) and put on the stretch of Rt132 just above Furnace Flats Rd. This stretch of Road is where Michelle Shane, intern for Linking Lands Alliance, is capturing wildlife crossing data. It would be interesting to see have this camera footage to validate the work that Michelle is doing and then potentially use the data to perform landowner outreach and inform the Development Review Board.

- Maple Hill Road Culvert Project – Amy attending Select Board Meeting on April 23
- Upper Valley Naturalist training – Begins April 24. Jared Janisch has enrolled for the course. The SCC took a vote to reimburse Jared for the course and the Vote passed (5 out of 5).
- New Appointments: Jared and Steve received their appointment letters. There is one vacant spot. Steve Willbanks said he has some acquaintances that maybe interested and will reach out to those persons.

Next Meeting Agenda: 27 May 2014

- Wildlife Road-crossing survey: Vote on Wildlife Camera purchase
- Maple Hill Road Culvert: Outcome of Selectboard meeting
- Wetlands Inventory: Project design and funding possibilities
- Trails: any new business
- Old City Falls: any new business
- TRORC USFS Grant: Report of meeting with Taylor Valley group.
- Invasives Management: possible efforts

Amy Metz (SCC member)

<_____, Recording Secretary>