

STRAFFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes

July 28, 2015

Present at the Justin Morrill Education Building at 7 p.m., were commission members: Chuck Sherman, Jared Jenisch, John Hemenway, Kate Root and Steve Willbanks.

- Approved of 6/23/'15 Minutes
- Trails: Steve summarized a brief report from Mike that including the information that the Cross-Strafford footbridge across the river hasn't yet been replaced and that the Orchid Trail, even though the orchids are no longer blooming, is getting a lot heavier use than in the past. Mike mentioned also said that the top of Whitcomb Hill is being mowed.
- Wetlands/Moss Workshop: Jared and Kate briefed the SCC on their wetlands fieldwork and it was noted that Mike has scheduled the Morrill Ed. Bldg. for every other Wednesday evening, starting Sept. 2nd and running through November, with a limited enrollment, for a workshop on mosses.
- Timber-Cut Tour: The ANR's John Buck is available in August, but the consensus was that in September, considering everyone's schedules, it would be easier to arrange the tour. It was suggested that if John Buck can recommend several dates in September, a date convenient to the largest number of SCC members could be selected.
- EMine PV Array Letter of Support: So far, there are 5 signatures and at least 2 additional members indicated an intention to sign. The 45-day notice period in advance of the actual application submittal has just started.
- Maple Hill Road Culvert: No update was available. So far as is known, the utility poles have yet to be moved, which may be delaying the project.
- Invasives: The Town has recently mowed the Old City Falls Road and the section of the Morrill Highway between Old City Falls and the Upper Village, eliminating a lot of poison parsnip plants. There has also been a concerted effort to mow and control the extensive infestation of brown knapweed along Route 132 from the Morrill Highway much of the way to the top of the hill. It remains to be seen how effective over the long term this removal effort will be.
- Next Meeting: August 25, '15

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Metz, Recording Secretary