

Strafford Conservation Commission

Minutes

August 27, 2024

Strafford Town Office 7:30-8:30 PM

Micki Colbeck, Courtney Potter, Anne Fayen, Mike Hebb, Kate Bass, JT Erbaugh, and Kitty Mackie

1. Approve minutes from June 25, 2024, meeting.
2. Kiosk discussion: Kate will talk to Jeff Solsa and P.D. Hardy about proper placement of a kiosk at the Park and Ride. We will gather ideas for kiosk designs and try to pick one for September's meeting. Our final design and proposal will need to be presented at a select board meeting.
3. Trails update: Mike hikes all our town trails every summer. Micki and Mike will hike Richardson's tomorrow. Mike has mowed many of the trails and does clearing on the ones that need it. J.T. will keep the Hemenway Ledges trail clear. Discussion of whether to change the name of Whitcomb Scenic Overlook to Whitcomb Town Forest. Further discussion of possible benefits when Steve F. is here.
4. SCC guided hikes and educational outreach series: Kate and Courtney had almost twenty children and adults attend their Crafting with Kids event at Old City Falls. Huge success and will be repeated next year. Some hikes were not as well attended so we may consolidate and be more careful in scheduling next year. Mike and JT hiked the cross town trail together. Erin led a river walk on her land last Sunday. Anne's Pocket Park Celebration is scheduled for September 14<sup>th</sup> at 3PM.
5. Miller Pond report: Miler Pond is an "Exemplary body of water" according to the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. We should be on the alert to keep it clean.

Perhaps schedule a bank clean-up day. Micki will search for names of landowners surrounding the lake.

6. Ethan Topper, former Chittenden County Forester has written a book on rehabilitating his forest in Bolton. We have agreed to host a reading and book signing.
7. Stipend for Trails Manager: Mike will work up a job description and we will submit this with a request for an annual stipend for our trails manager. Anne warned that she was told she had to carry liability insurance to receive her stipend for the Pocket Park. We will consult with Kelly Harmon to see if this is correct.
8. Jason Berard has shared a job description for trails manager under the Upper Valley Land Trust for the Manning Farm Trail.
9. Next meeting September 24, 2024, 7 PM Town Office.
10. Meeting adjourned.
11. After the meeting, JT, Mike, Micki, and Kate filled out the Vermont Town Forest Survey.