Strafford Conservation Commission

Agenda

June 25, 2024

Strafford Town Office 7-8 PM

1. Approve minutes from May 28, 2024, meeting
2. Trails report by Mike Hebb. *See below for Mike Hebb's parameters for the town's trail system.
3. Manning Trail: discussion of the possibility of incorporating the Manning Tail into our Town trail system. Short presentation by Michael Sacca.
4. EAB at Cobb Forest.
5. Old City Falls caretaker. Is Tim still looking after the Trails?
6. Report on kiosk by Kate and Micki.
7. Update on dates and details of our hikes and education outreach programs. Pennock trail hike brought us a new trail manager- Jeffery Gale, to help Kitty. Orchid hike had a family with two young naturalists. The mine hike? updates on the July 7th cross town hike. Loupes are available to borrow.
8. Ten-year capital budget for OCF. Any updates on whether we should submit a proposal of expense?
9. Other business.
10. Next meeting July 25, 2024?

* Mike Hebb's parameters for the Strafford trail system

Over the years I have adapted certain parameters that seem to provide for a long-term success (about 18 years so far). The management system that has evolved for the Strafford trail system is in place to maintain favorable landowner relations, preserve landowners' properties with minimal damage (no terraforming, nails in trees, minimal cutting etc.), and to ensure the trail provides access to some natural and/or cultural attractions (views, rare plants, archeological sites).

- Add, close or reroute trails as the manager chooses.

- Ensure that if a trail is closed it "disappears"

- Manage a team of maintenance volunteers

- Monitor trails for quality and support a maintenance team

- Publicize availability, changes, new trails, closures and seasonal attractions

- Ensure new trails have accessibility, hiker attractions, a maintenance person, and land owner support

- Ensure manager and maintenance teams are not booked beyond capacity.

- Support only human powered access

- Monitor land transfers for trail ownership changes and get new permissions

- Ensure all trails are treated equally (no separate rules for different trails)