

Stratham Conservation Commission

Public Meeting Minutes

1/22/20

Present: Bob Keating, Pat Elwell, Bill McCarthy, Ana Egana, Brad Jones

Public Session

Called to order 7:02

Minutes

No minutes were available to review.

Mail

Easement reports were received from RCCD:

Batchelder pond – two separate reports. No issues found. Willow Pond reports previously went to Dave Emanuel, who was head of association. CC is trying to determine who report should go to now.

Batchelder Farm – report sent to John O'Brien, current owner. Many invasive plants including buckthorn, multiflora, and Japanese knotweed were noted. John indicated that he will use his goats to combat the invasive plants.

Scullers – no concerns

Goodrich on Stratham Heights Rd – no new concerns

Adams – 86 Winnicutt – no concerns

Wiggin – 52 Union Rd – no concerns

The RCCD invoice was \$1792.20 Pat moved, Ana seconded, paying the invoice from the Land Conservation Fund. Motion passed.

Bill noted that tree cutting is going on the old David Short Property that has been sold. The tree cutting is only to clear sides of the driveway for fire safety only.

New Business

Leaf blowing - Bill received a communication from resident Joel Hansford in the form of a petition requesting reconsideration of the leaf blowing decision for portions of the SHP trail network. The petition provides the same rationale/opinion that was previously provided when the CC discussion and public hearings occurred in Fall 2019. No new information was provided. There was some concern that it was difficult to identify petitioners and to assure that they were residents of Stratham. Bill asked Joel to provide a clearer document and Joel will be sending that information. The issue will be revisited in late summer 2020., prior to leaf season.

Clean-up day – The CC scheduled 2020 clean-up day for May 2, with a rain date of May 9. Bill will contact David to reserve pavilion and dumpster.

Arianna from RCCD contacted the CC to let us know that another grant is available for the eradication of invasive plants. Last year, the RCCD grant allowed them to spray and knock back some very invasive Japanese knotweed that it is around the transfer station. Bill will let Arianna know we would like to apply and discuss the grant with the head of the highway dept to identify any other potential town areas that need to be addressed.

Greg Blood and Seth Hickey met with Bill to review the two proposals received to develop a trail plan. One came from Marten Forestry but was the more expensive of the two proposals and lacked detail. The second came from Snow Hawk and was a lower cost at \$3,880 and was more detailed about how the plan would be developed. The proposals and how payment will be divided will be discussed at the Feb 12 joint meeting with the Park Association.

Old Business

Pat provided a new draft of the Land Conservation Criteria along with suggested changes and talking points. The CC reviewed and revised the criteria. Pat will make changes to the document for presentation at the Feb. 12 joint meeting with the Park Association.

No representative from the town was available for Municipal or Planning updates.

Bob moved, Ana seconded, closing meeting at 8:30.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday February 12, 7:00pm at the Stratham Municipal Center.

Respectfully submitted, Pat Elwell