

Minutes of the Sugar Hill Conservation Commission DRAFT

Date: Aug 27 2020

Start Time: 5:00 PM

Adjournment Time: 6:23

Attending Members:

Margo Connors

Cathy Strasser

Timothy Williams

Charles Wolcott

Chris Ellms

Location: Coffin Pond Parking Lot

Guests attending

Tim Egan

Peter Carbonneau

Location Coffin Pond

Accepted minutes of 2/20/2020 revised 2/21/2020

Note The SHCC has been unable to meet regularly in the past year. SHCC had no meetings in July, October, December 2019, March, April, June, July 2020

TIMOTHY WILLIAMS reviewed several issues with invasive plants:

Streeter Pond - the aquatic plants are still an issue for some residents there. The large floating island near the center of the pond has however disappeared over the winter. An unexpected benefit the vegetation is the continued nesting of loons this year and the increased use of the pond for recreation. The vegetation has effectively prevented large, high speed power boats use on the pond and as a result many more paddle craft are in use. On one day he counted 30 paddle and sail craft on the water at one time and more on the shores. Previously 2 or 3 power boats would have been the maximum at one time.

Whipple field conservation area. Bracken fern continues to invade the field and there appear to be no efforts at control. There is no simple method of control that he has found in the literature.

Phragmites on Rt. 18 east of the Littleton Regional Hospital, near the Honda dealership appears to be continuing its slow growth. If it escapes to wetlands in our town it will severely impact wildlife. Previous contacts with the Littleton Conservation Commission revealed removal would have to be done by the state and the highway department showed no interest in the work. MARGO CONNORS said she would contact the Littleton CC and see if there has been any progress.

TIM EGAN inquired about lumbering in the Richardson Town Forest and a possible shared access for lumbering in the area. He will submit a proposal with more detail.

PETER CARBONNEAU Inquired if the SHCC wanted shrubs cut around the parking area at Coffin Pond to increase visibility of the area. The committee unanimously expressed approval for limited cutting at Peter's discretion.

PHILIP MAGNUSEN Requested that no cutting be done by the Town on his property to the north of the pond. He also expressed concern that the pond was becoming stagnant as no fresh water is coming from the Gale River at present.

CATHY STRASSER reviewed the options for improving the SHCC page on the Town website. Options were discussed especially for providing maps of town trails on the website. CATHY STRASSER will look into what funds are available for this work.

It was generally agreed that a kiosk showing trails in the Robertson Town Forest should be considered at the parking area.

CATHY will ask that SHCC minutes be posted on the Town Website.

Next meeting 5:00 PM Sept 17, Crapo Building

Submitted by Tim Williams