

Minutes of the Sugar Hill Conservation Commission

Date August 23 2018

Start Time 5:30

Adjournment Time 6:50

Attending Members

Cathy Strasser

Charles Wolcott

Chris Ellms

Tim Williams

Guests

Streeter Pond (homeowners)

Linda Foote

Rich Foote

Nancy Vailas

Sally Johnson

Rick Quintal

Cheryl Quintal

Thomas Finch*

Nancy Finch*

Nancy Blampied

Doug Blampied

Chuck Johnson.

*Contact people for the group

Accepted revised minutes of July 25 2018 meeting. Unanimous

TOM FINCH represented the group stating that they were thinking of forming a Streeter Pond Homeowners Association but today wanted to present their concerns about the pond.

Their major concern was the change in aquatic vegetation and growth of water lilies and pond weeds that in the past years as increasingly covered the open water and shore areas restricting navigation and recreation.

TIM WILLIAMS responded for the SHCC saying this matter had been a concern for the Town of Sugar Hill for more than a decade. The Town Master Plan states that the area around Streeter Pond is the highest ranked wildlife habitat in the state and that the Pond is one of the most important recreational sites in the town. SHCC has consulted with the NH DES and twice has had DES scientists inspect the pond for foreign invasive plants. DES found no foreign invasives but did report significant vegetation growth on the pond surface from native plants,

Control of the vegetation is a complex issue, for instance, although the growth of water lilies inhibits motorized boat use it has provided the first successful nesting sites for loons on the pond in 2016 and 2017. The growth of vegetation is fostered by both natural and man made processes such as siltation and nutrient run-off from lawns. SHCC has provided homeowners on the pond with DES shoreline protection information such as erosion reducing protective vegetation zones and how to reduce nutrient runoff into the pond.

As a general rule any action to change the vegetation would require approval by the State although manual removal of plants from dock areas is generally allowed. The SHCC would work with homeowners in presenting plans to the DES but we all must first decide what results are wanted and at present there is a diversity of ideas on what would be the ideal state of Streeter Pond vegetation. We

suggest that the homeowners develop a generally accepted set of goals and we can then work to see how these might be achieved .

CHARLES WOLCOTT reported that the Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust is working toward protecting the natural areas around the pond and might be included in any plans.

CATHY STRASSER and TIM WILLIAMS reported that the crabapple tree planted as a memorial to Kathie Galligan is not doing well and may be diseased. CATHY STRASSER will inquire if the nursery which provided and planted the tree last year has a guarantee on their plants.

CHRIS ELLMS reported that an engraved small boulder appears to be the best permanent marker for the tree and he will obtain an estimate for placing such a stone.

CATHY STRASSER will look into obtaining a foot bridge to complete the path from the Coffin Pond parking area to the path along the southwest shore of the pond. Doug Glover (Road Agent) might have suggestions.

CHRIS ELLMS offered to mow the Robertson Town Forest parking lot and the trail through the meadow down to the bridge. He will also look into obtaining markers for the walking trail. CATHY STRASSER will contact Angela at Profile school and Geordie at Lafayette school about use of the trail for education.

Next meeting September 20th 5:30 PM

Submitted by Tim Williams