

Minutes of the Sugar Hill Conservation Commission

Date April 20 2017

Start Time 6:00 PM

Adjournment time 7:32

Attending Members: Margo Connors, Cathy Strasser, Tim Williams

Guests: Rachelle Lyons

Accepted minutes of Feb 10 2017 meeting. There was no meeting for March 2017

RACHELLE LYONS reviewed stream crossings project for Town of Sugar Hill. See attached notes she supplied.

Ammonoosuc River stream crossing project assessed points at which a public road crossed a stream or river in Sugar Hill based on Geomorphic Compatibility - extent to which a culvert or bridge allows a natural flow of stream water and Aquatic Organism Compatibility - estimate of whether fish and other aquatic animals can move through the culvert.

They also estimated the probability that the culvert would withstand flood waters in the future. Sugar Hill did not rank well on any measure and is likely to suffer major damage in the next major rain event like Hurricane Irene. Many of our culverts are also preventing the natural extension of populations of trout and thus reduce recreation opportunities in the Town.

On May 31 at the Tender Corp in Littleton there will be a workshop on funding opportunities for area towns to repair and upgrade stream crossings.

To proceed towns need to

- (1) identify and prioritize projects
- (2) do fine assessment using data set provided at NH SADES (Dept Trans.)
- (3) coordinate Planning Board, Select Board, Road Agent, abutters and stakeholders who use the roads and Conservation Commission
- (4) seek funding for long range capital improvement budget.

7:00 Rachelle Lyons departs meeting

MARGO CONNORS:

ACT wants to form Ammonoosuc Regional Conservation Partnership to facilitate planning and funding for area projects. Proposed motion: SHCC is interested in joining initial application process. Motion passed unanimously.

Reviewed letter from Elisabeth McNaughton about proposed lease of Coffin Pond land to Town of Sugar Hill and response by T. Williams. SCHH will need to walk the proposed trail around Coffin Pond to respond to letter more precisely.

Also need to decide on exact route for Robertson Forest trail.

Decided that May meeting will be inspection of those sites if possible with Robert Mancini to do GPS mapping

These two trails could be added to Franconia Area Trails map being prepared by Franconia Rec. Dept. Also should consider Trailfinder website for SH trails.

MARGO CONNORS will contact Tim Burger about road clean up date

CATHY STRASSER graciously agreed to coordinate emails reminding SHCC members of future meetings until Kathy is better.

Next meeting May 18 5:30 at Robertson Forest Parking area.

Submitted by Tim Williams