

REVISED MINUTES OF SHCC 6/15/2017

Minutes of the Sugar Hill Conservation Commission

Date June 15 2017

Start Time 5:30

Adjournment time 6:30

Attending Members

Cathy Strasser

Margo Connors

William Fraser

Tim Williams

Guests

none

Accepted minutes of April 20 2017 meeting. Unanimous

Accepted Minutes of May 18 2017 meeting Unanimous

MARGO CONNORS moved to have the minutes read: "We thank Katherine Galligan for her many years of dedicated service including serving as Chair of the Sugar Hill Conservation Commission."

Seconded by William Fraser passed unanimously

MARGO CONNORS moved that the SHCC appropriate funds from the Timber Fund to purchase a tree to be planted in the Coffin Pond parking area to honor Katherine Galligan.

Seconded by William Fraser passed unanimously.

WILLIAM FRASER moved that we nominate CATHY STRASSER to be appointed to the position of Chair of the SHCC by the Selectmen of Sugar Hill. Seconded by Margo Connors and passed unanimously.

TIM WILLIAMS reported on the meeting concerning funding for stream crossing projects. His report is appended to these minutes. (note that in SHCC meeting TCW incorrectly reported the amounts required for funding a proposal. The amounts as given in the appended report are correct.

WILLIAM FRASER AND MARGO CONNORS suggested that we have the town road agent attend a SHCC meeting to get his reading on the issues concerning replacement of existing culverts. Suggestion was unanimously approved.

Concerning the Robertson Town Forest.

MARGO CONNORS will ask the Cooperative Extension agent, Jim Frohn to walk the new trail with the SHCC to make suggestions and provide information.

WILLIAM FRASER noted that the beginning of the trail is now so overgrown that does not encourage use. This portion needs to be mowed before it will be used. MARGO CONNORS will contact Mike Warren to see if he would mow it.

CATHY STRASSER noted that we need to proceed on moving some stones to fill wet places in the trails as agreed in our May meeting. If this requires more than light hand work we may need to get assistance. Mike Warren could look at it.

CATHY STRASSER passed out information from the USDA on invasive species which will be added to the SHCC reference material.

Concerning Streeter Pond

CATHY STRASSER will contact Jim Snyder to see if he wishes to continue work on the Streeter Pond trails including the bridge over the inlet.

TIM WILLIAMS reported on conversations with Phil Magnuson concerning a proposed trail around Streeter Pond which would pass very close to the Magnuson property. The SHCC agreed that we should be certain that The Town of Sugar Hill or NH Fish and Game owned enough dry land on the northeast side of the pond so that a trail could be built safely without encroaching on the Magnuson property. We also recognized the problems abutters might face with increased public access to that side of the pond. TIM WILLIAMS will contact Phil Magnuson and see if he has suggestions as to how these problems could be addressed.

Next meeting July 27 2017 at 5:00

Note added 7/14/2017 Meeting was held at Coffin Pond on July 7, 2017 to locate memorial tree planting site. Scheduled meeting on the 27th was cancelled.

Submitted by Tim Williams

Appendix

Report on Workshop for funding stream crossing projects

T. C. Williams May 31 2917

This was an eye opener for me. The previous meeting with SHCC revealed the problems we have at stream crossings. This meeting revealed a new world of funding complexity to me.

The work shop consisted of presentations by funding agencies and a few minutes of questions from the audience.

Each agency had a handout which I will file in the SHCC folder in the office.

Summary:

The bad news -

Fundable projects are in the \$100,000 to \$250,000 or more range. This is not replacing a culvert. You have to build a new bridge as wide as the stream in flood.

It takes many agencies to put together this kind of money. You can't just apply to one agency.

The proposal process is very complex and time and money consuming. We would need to spend about \$5,000 just to apply with any hope of success (see below for grants to get grants).

It takes 2 to 3 years of work to secure a grant in most cases.

Only about 2 to 3 projects are funded in the whole upper Connecticut River valley each year.

It would be very unlikely that our town would be funded if we submitted a proposal on our own.

The Good News -

There is now a whole group of non - profits which specialize in helping to submit proposals. These folks use the town name to create a portfolio of proposals based on existing data. If we wanted funding we would:

First and foremost we would have to identify the one or two projects in town that we felt were top priority on all counts (wildlife, public safety, history of flooding) and submit our ideas to one of the helper non-profits such as North Country Council.

They would evaluate the probability of success (often with the help of one or more helpers). If they thought we had a chance we would have to raise about \$5,000 just to enter the first stage of a proposal (there are even grants to fund grant proposals and the helper might help write these). If that got the go-ahead the helper non-profit would raise another \$15,000 to prepare a proposal in our name and would supervise shopping it around, combining multiple grants, meeting deadlines and proposal restrictions

for each funding agency. If the project were funded the helper would set up a management framework to ensure the project was properly carried out and reports written.