

Minutes of the Sugar Hill Conservation Commission August 19, 2021

Meeting started at 5:00PM and adjourned at 6:30PM

Minutes were recorded by Larry Sawyer

In attendance:

Chris Ellms, Charlie Wolcott, Judy Sawyer, Larry Sawyer, Margo Connors (alternate)

Guest Claire Von Karls sat in on the meeting to determine if she would like to join and at the end of the meeting she agreed to join. She will need to be sworn in by the town clerk and should be all set for the next meeting. Welcome Claire.

First order of business and discussion was the Water Hemlock found by a kayaker in Coffin Pond. The kayaker reported the find to the state who in turn notified the town selectmen. MARGO explained that the plant is located in the water near the boat launch. Only the root is poisonous. Margo and Peter Carbonneau will cut the plant down, insert a wooden stake to mark the location and monitor the results. Hopefully continuous cutting of the plant will kill it out.

Another discussion regarding Coffin Pond involved the water level. CHRIS reported that a beaver dam had been removed between the river and the pond but we are prohibited from pulling any of the splash boards at the river until the state determines that the outlet is OK. The water level will stay the way it is for now. Red McCarthy will check for us and we will revisit this at the next meeting.

Emily Bryant of Stonehouse Mapping will be walking the Robertson Forest to get as much information possible for a new improved trail map. MARGO explained that Stonehouse Mapping had been used in the past by the town with good results.

Alderson property was the last discussion. ROSALIND PAGE and RICK WALLING from ACT was here to bring us up to date. The owners want a conservation easement on a 2.3 acre parcel that is located off Sunset Road. The Sugar Hill Conservation Commission have discussed this off and on for approximately 3 years. RICK explained that the owners had misplaced a letter ACT had sent them while they were moving and that had slowed the process. The thought was to include this parcel with the current lupine fields off of Sunset but the 2 pieces do not abut. There was a trail across this piece that went behind the Sunset Hill House but CHARLIE reported that it is now completely over grown. LARRY asked ROSALYN if she, while representing ACT considered it a valuable parcel and she said no.

The criteria "sufficient public value " in our view is lacking. In the future if the owners recreate a trail with their neighbors that could be put under permanent easement we could revisit this. CHARLIE made a motion to accept this and notify ACT of our decision, CHRIS seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

LARRY made a motion to adjourn and CHARLIE seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 6:30. The next meeting is September 16, 2021 at 5:00. Representatives from ACT will be here to discuss the Whipple fields.