

Minutes of the Sugar Hill Conservation Commission December 16, 2021

The meeting started at 5:00PM and adjourned at 6:15

In attendance:

Chris Ellms, Claire Von Karls, Charlie Wolcott, Judy and Larry Sawyer.

Minutes of the November meeting were approved with updates.

CHRIS ELLMS reported he has been in contact with Emily Bryant of Stonehouse Mapping and she is on schedule for a spring unveiling of the new trail map for the Phillip Robertson Memorial Forest.

CHRIS ELLMS confirmed the meeting with ROSALIND PAGE from ACT at the January meeting. This is to clarify the situation at the Whipple Field.

We also will ask ROSALIND if there are any land owners in Sugar Hill that are in discussions with ACT for protection of their properties. There have been rumors but nothing public. We also will ask about the Streeter Pond watershed and if anymore has been done about protecting the area.

JUDY SAWYER reported that the Sugar Hill highway crew removed the unwanted trees along Route 118 at Coffin Pond. It looks much better.

We discussed the trail around Coffin Pond and the possibility that the Ski Hearth Farm abuts the pond and we may be able to extend the trail to the Streeter Pond road. Need more information.

The bridge at Coffin Pond was brought up and CHARLIE WOLCOTT explained to the new members what exactly is required. CHRIS ELLMS told us that DOUG GLOVER of the highway department is looking into a new gate system for the inlet connecting the Gale River and the pond. That is the current priority. CHRIS will keep us informed.

LARRY SAWYER asked who is responsible for the dam at Streeter Pond as he found an inspection report in the town office that was critical of the condition of the dam. We will ask TIM WILLIAMS if he has information on the dam.

CHARLIE WOLCOTT updated us on the proposed bike trail from Easton to Profile School and beyond. One or two land owners have blocked the planned route but they are still working on a solution. More information as it becomes available. He also told us that a local mountain bike organization received grant money for building and improving local trails. CHRIS stated that the design for the new Crane Hill bridge over the Gale River has a pedestrian walk way which would make it safer for people and bikes.

CLAIRE VON KARLS brought up that we may want to monitor future mountain biking trails to insure they don't overstep their bounds. We will keep an eye on this as they proceed.

CLAIRE VON KARLS reported that the zoom meeting with REPRESENTATIVE TIM EGAN was very informative. He discussed several topics including bottle and can redemption and recycling and composting at the transfer station. She suggested we may want to meet with him which we think is a good idea so she will contact him and see when he is available. Tentatively scheduled for February 2022.

We again are looking for projects for next year so please bring your ideas to the next meeting.

LARRY SAWYER made a motion to adjourn at 6:15PM and JUDY SAWYER seconded it.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 20, 2022 at 5:00.