

Minutes of the Sugar Hill Conservation Commission September 16, 2021

Meeting started at 5:00PM and adjourned at 6:15PM

Minutes were recorded by Larry Sawyer

In attendance:

Chris Ellms, Tim Williams, Charlie Wolcott, Claire Von Karls, Margo Connors, Judy Sawyer and Larry Sawyer.

Minutes of the August meeting were approved without comments.

Claire reported she has been sworn in and is now an official member.

It was reported that the Poison Hemlock found at the waters edge at Coffin Pond has been disposed of by Margo and Peter Carbonneau.

CHRIS ELLMS reported that no problems were found at the outlet of Coffin Pond and Doug Glover will be using town equipment to remove the build up of silt that is limiting the amount of water coming into the pond from the Gale River. Since the pond is classified as a fire pond there are no special permits required to do this work.

CHRIS ELLMS also reported on the Bio Blitz held on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at the Robertson Forest. Approximately 16 people attended and though the bird count was low a good time was had by all. Many complimentary comments were made regarding the improvements made to the trails, bridges, signage and benches.

A discussion with JESSE MOHR and RICK WALLING from ACT about the work that has been done at the Whipple Farm Conservation Area was the next matter of discussion. TIM WILLIAMS stated his concerns that the heart of the agreement as he understands it is not being followed with the planting of trees along the northern edge, the lack of timely mowing to control the bracken fern and the failure to keep the trail system open with additional mowing. After considerable debate with everyone being able to voice their views a consensus was arrived at that was approved by everyone. Going forward ACT will not add any more plantings and will improve their communication with SHCC to include getting our input and approval prior to performing any work on the property.

We also decided that LARRY SAWYER will create a draft statement that will be added to our contract with ACT to reflect the required improvements in communication going forward in regards to the Whipple property. He will send this to all members prior to the next meeting so everyone can review it and make their changes and comments. The draft statement will be finalized at the next meeting which will be October 21, 2021.

Larry Sawyer made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Charlie Wolcott seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:15PM.

Next meeting will be on October 21, 2021.

A bobcat was observed behind the historical society building.