

Minutes of the Sugar Hill Conservation Commission May 19, 2022

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

Minutes recorded by Larry Sawyer.

In attendance: Chris Ellms, Claire Von Karls, Charlie Wolcott, Tim Williams, Judy and Larry Sawyer.

Rosalind Page and Rick Walling from ACT were guests.

CLAIRE made a motion to accept the minutes of April 21<sup>st</sup> and CHRIS seconded the motion, all were in favor.

ROSALIND PAGE and RICK WALLING were here to discuss the Whipple Field easement. TIM WILLIAMS pointed out that the easement for the Whipple Field states the mowed area is to be maintained as a field thus ACT planting trees violates the terms of the easement. RICK WALLING responded it was done to increase the riparian buffer along the pond. TIM asked what were the plantings and RICK assured us they were native fruit bearing shrubs aimed at non-ground nesting birds and other wildlife. Rather than change the easement itself ROSALIND said a Letter of Acknowledgement could be created by ACT documenting the plantings and requiring that no more plantings will take place and communication will be improved between ACT and the SHCC. This document will be reviewed by their lawyer and board then sent to the Commission for our approval and signature. We agreed with the plan and look forward to receiving the letter. ROSALIND and RICK left at 5:20PM.

CHARLIE brought up the possibility of building a bird and wildlife viewing platform along the pond edge at the Whipple property. TIM mentioned the possibility that people would use the platform as a kayak or canoe launching dock. It was decided that an impact study would need to be done in regards to the neighbors. This is something that we would look at in the future.

CHRIS reported that ACT is sponsoring a walk at the Phillip Robertson Town Forest June 18<sup>th</sup>. Limited space is available and participants must sign up ahead of time.

LARRY asked if any thought had been given to building a trail at Coffin Pond between Route 18 and the brook instead of installing a bridge. Consensus was a bridge would be much better.

LARRY reported he would be meeting soon with MIKE WARREN and PETER CARBONNEAU at Coffin Pond to discuss the landscape improvements there. He will report back after the meeting.

LARRY reported he had reached out to MR. BRIERE at Profile High School Woodworking in regards to building a kiosk for the Phillip Robertson Town Forest. He will report back when he has more information. CHRIS stated there may be some funding available for the kiosk and the bridge through a Trail Grant. We will get more information.

CHRIS reported there has been another complaint about the plant waste being dumped adjacent to the Town fire hydrant at Coffin Pond on the Streeter Pond road. This is coming from Reggie Tarr and has been going on for some time. LARRY volunteered to write a friendly letter to Mr. Tarr. He will do a draft and send it to all members for feedback before sending it to Mr. Tarr.

CHRIS will be forwarding the Town Police logo to all members. With some modifications the logo may be just what is needed as a property line marker for the Town Forest

CLAIRE asked about having a potluck dinner for the people who volunteered to pick roadside. We felt with Covid threatening again we will wait till it is safer.

LARRY made a motion to adjourn at 6:00PM, CHRIS seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The next meeting is June 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:00PM at the Crapo Building.