

Minutes of the Sugar Hill Conservation Commission December 15, 2022

The meeting started at 5:00PM

Minutes recorded by Larry Sawyer

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

JUDY made a motion to accept the minutes for November and Charlie seconded the motion. All approved.

CHARLIE reported on the meeting he attended prior to our meeting hosted by the Franconia Conservation Commission and included representatives from the Easton Conservation Commission and Kim Cartwright, the new executive director of ACT. Amy Villamagna is a professor at Plymouth State who will have 6 groups of 4 students looking for a 15 week project starting in January of 2023. They are undergraduate seniors. Possible projects working with our regional Conservation Commissions and ACT were discussed. Ideas included doing a Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) of water throughout the area- identifying and classifying water from 1<sup>st</sup> order streams on down, aquifers etc.. The Gale is a 4<sup>th</sup> order stream for example. Possibly identifying what protections are in place and what may be needed. From this data priorities could be set as could potential development/discussions of easements with private landowners. An NRI for wildlife and wildlife corridors could be another project. Invasive species could be addressed but probably not as a winter project. We will now wait for the next meeting to be set.

LARRY read a questionnaire the Commission received from Hoyle Tanner, the company designing the Crane Hill bridge. This questionnaire was sent to six other departments and boards here in town. The Commission answered each question we could and LARRY volunteered to forward our responses via email to Hoyle Tanner.

LARRY reported on his meeting with the Sugar Hill Planning Board about the Master Plan. We will need to concentrate on the Natural Resources section of the Master Plan. Copies of the Master Plan were handed out so we can all review and we will have a discussion at the next meeting. LARRY will continue to attend the Planning Board meetings as the Commission's liason.

We also discussed helping to pay for the Master Plan and agreed the Commission will contribute \$5000 towards the cost, which is estimated at \$17000. The money will come out of our funds and will have to be approved via a warrant at the 2024 town meeting.

CLAIRE reported on the Community Power program. Jordan Applewhite has been chosen as the Chairman and they will be scheduling an organizational meeting. CLAIRE will be our representative for now.

We then answered a survey that CLAIRE brought in from the NHMCC. LARRY volunteered to send it.

CHRIS announced that LARRY is now the co-chairman of the Commission. CHRIS is so busy that he needs help and we agreed.

LARRY made a motion to adjourn and CHRIS seconded the motion. All agreed. The meeting ended at 6:15PM.

The next meeting is January 19, 2023.

