

Minutes of the Sugar Hill Conservation Commission December 21, 2023

The meeting started at 5:00PM

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

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

CHRIS reported that a pond is being dug at the junction of the Dyke and Easton Road. The town has not received any paperwork so it may be out of compliance. LARRY and JUDY will investigate and report back.

The town has received copies of correspondence from NHDES and the Sabados, again a failure of the Sabados correcting the repairs to the adjoining property. The State is ratcheting up the pressure.

CHARLIE reported on the meeting between Amy Villamagna from PSU and representatives of the tri-town Conservation Commissions. Exploring issues with culverts hindering the movement of amphibians and other aquatic creatures. For example, 15 to 20 percent of the culverts in Franconia and Easton are "perched" preventing aquatic organisms from moving freely but, that number in Sugar Hill is 48%. We discussed looking into this ourselves. We are interested in determining what is the reason for such a large percentage of perched culverts and would it be feasible to make some changes.

CHARLIE also informed us that Linda Hansen of the Easton Conservation Commission is coordinating with ACT to have a presentation on the History of the White Mountain National Forest with Dave Govatski. This would be tentatively scheduled at the Lafayette School Thursday April 4, 2024 from 6:00 to 8:30. We all agreed this was a great idea and the SHCC be a co-sponsor and help with the cost. CHARLIE will let Linda know of our response.

We also discussed creating a warrant article about excessive residential lighting throughout town. CLAIRE gave us an example of a second home being lit all night when no one is there and the neighbors are looking right at it. It was decided that LARRY will create a pseudo ordinance based on what local towns have on their books and we will include it in the annual Town Report. We will stress that we are still exploring the possibility of creating such an ordinance if nothing changes. This will hopefully start a conversation within town.

LARRY made a motion to adjourn at 5:45 and CLAIRE seconded the motion. All approved.

The next meeting is January 18, 2024.