

Sharon Conservation Commission
August 27, 2024
Minutes

On August 27, 2024, a regular meeting of the Sharon Conservation Commission was held at the Sharon Meetinghouse on Route 123 in Sharon, New Hampshire at 6:30 p.m. In attendance were Anne Fischer, Anne Booth, Belinda Backstrom, Beth Fernald. Also in attendance was Robert Hauser, Megan Cahill, Gina Goff and Jim Martens.

Minutes

Accepted the July 23, 2024 minutes.

Financial

Fund balances ending 8/30/2024.

Town Forest Fund	Interest: \$ 85,00	Balance: \$ 94,831.49
Conservation Fund	Interest: \$124.65	Balance: \$139,062.99

Moosewood Ecological LLC's August 19, 2024 invoice for \$10,030 has been paid and will be reflected in the August, 2024 Town Forest Fund balance. The invoice was for "Information Review and Project Design, Ecological inventory, and Project Coordination."

Beavers

Anne B. talked to Mary Beck about beaver dam on her property, which is upstream from where the beaver deceiver was installed.

Town Forest

The bioblitz was held in July despite a rainy morning. We had ten people. Approx 330 species were recorded in the iNaturalist app. 129 of which were new to bioblitz. Jeff Littleton provided a brief overview of what Moosewood Ecological has identified in its inventory. So far over 50 species of breeding birds. Two dozen vernal pools. Over 200 species spotted in May.

Signs: Anne B. brought the new signs. Anne F. will ask Ken Callahan for advice.

Trail work

Two trees down on Matthews, several trees down on Milt Street (along with low-hanging branches) and Sullivan Loop needs work.

Conservation Easements

The Commission is in the process of marking up a map of priority properties for easements. Looked at those that abut the Town Forest, have large acreage that could be developed or are adjacent to other protected lands. Anne B. contacted Paul Doscher and Ann McBride, Monadnock Conservancy.

The ConsCom is just beginning discussion of conservation easement on Town Forest. We need to know cost, procedure, timeline. And members will look at grants to cover the cost or partial cost. Gina asked why a grant is needed when we have the budget; however, it was explained that the ConsCom intends to partially fund the CE if necessary, would seek a matching grant to save some of ConsCom funds to help with other CEs or if an opportunity arises in which we may purchase a parcel.

Beth asked if we have decided to put an easement on the Forest. At this point we are gathering information.

Gina suggested that ConsCom pay for an easement on Town Forest rather than getting a grant. She also said we should prioritize easements on residential parcels or do concurrently. Jim Martens suggested approaching landowners with a plan. Gina suggesting getting the next generation involved.

Bonsal Property – South Road (Map 7 Lot 8 – 125 acres; Map3 Lot 46 – 46 acres)

Nothing new.

SanKen property on Swamp Rd., 92 acres Map 7 Lot-21

Jim Martens thinks we should talk to Society about a land swap to preserve Swamp Rd. Beth will contact SPNF about land swap.

Gridley River Water Testing

Belinda Backstrom has agreed to take this on.

New members

Stacy Radiche's name came up.

**Next regular meeting will be held at the Sharon Meeting House
Route 123 Sharon, New Hampshire at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 09/24/2024.**