

STRAFFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

June 28, 2016

MINUTES

Present at the Morrill Education Bldg. at 7 p.m. were commission members: Mike Hebb, Tii McLane, Kate Root, Jared Jenisch and Steve Willbanks, Chair. Also present was Tim McCormick.

- Approved 5/31/'16 Minutes.
- Tii outlined the requirements for the proposed \$10K grant project to remove glossy buckthorn in the Taylor Valley area. The majority of the funds would be coming from the ANR and there has been a strong response from potential volunteers to help with the removal, which should satisfy the SCC's 'in-kind' match. The key will be the support of the landowners for the project.
- Mike reported that the orchids on the orchid tour in the Town Forest are spectacular right now and Jared will organize a tour for later in the week. Mike is also recommending that trail stewards re-fresh the paint on the trail blazes rather than relying on surveyor's tape.
- 'Least Wanted' posters with eradication information for 5 of the most prevalent invasive plant species can be downloaded from the SCC's page on the Town's website. The Town road crew has done some roadside cutting, but the wild chervil which hasn't yet been cut has already gone to seed.
- There was discussion, but no resolution, about how to pay speakers and whether the SCC should ask for donations or set aside currently available funds to pay for speakers.
- It was noted that it is legal to train dogs to tree bears. The SCC members' experience is that local practitioners are not doing this just to harass bears, but are actually available to move bears away from areas, such as near homes, where they are likely to do damage.

- Tii described the campaign to replace trees on the Common. Red oak have been planted and it will be interesting to see if this species can succeed where others have succumbed to road salt and poor drainage.
- Next meeting: July 26, '16

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Willbanks, acting Secretary