

Meeting: Antrim Conservation Commission, May 26, 2022 at 6 pm meeting at Town Hall.

Attendees: Peter Beblowski '25', Linda Bryer '24', Jeremy DeLisle '23' and Ron Cheetham '23'
Public: none

Absent: Frank Gorga '24', Keith Wolsiefer '25', Rod Zwirner-Member-at-Large

1. Key to town hall did not work. Meeting was held in town hall parking lot.
2. Draft March 2022 meeting notes were reviewed, amended and accepted.
3. No meeting was held in April 2022.
4. **Invasive Plants** – Keith and I hiked into Campbell Pond April 24 and looked for Japanese Barberry. We also were looking for frog & salamander egg masses in the wetland north of the pond. We were too early in the year for egg masses. We also saw a number of downed trees and encountered a potential county champion Big White Ash Tree. We need to go back and measure.

Next up Burning Bush removal at Town Hall this was discussed and 8-10 mature (4-6 year old) blueberry bushes need to be obtained. Jeremy volunteered to find & purchase. Peter volunteered to talk with Russ to notify the selectmen of activity on the project. The removal and replacement will be done in phases. The bushes at the rear of Town Hall will be done in a second phase after seeing how the first phase works. Linda will direct and talk to Jim Plourde about using the town backhoe for the bush removals. A motion was made by Linda Bryer to move forward with purchasing the blueberry plants and compost for the south side of town hall using funds from the Conservation Fund. It was seconded by Ron Cheetham. Discussion ensued. Following the discussion, a vote was taken and recorded as 3 yes – 0 no. The chair does not vote. The chair only votes in cases of a tie.

5. On April 18, 2022, the Harris Center for Conservation Education sent a package of information regarding their acquisition of some conservation land Tax Map 253, Lot 10. It is a wooded parcel of land that fronts on Willard Pond Road, abuts the town line with Hancock and several Audubon owned properties south of Willard Pond. After some discussion, we determined that we could move forward. Peter to notify the Harris Center of our willingness to help and hold a public hearing on June 23, 2022 at 7pm in accordance with RSA 675:7.
6. Soak Up the Rain has scheduled another day of site visits at Gregg Lake and Steels Pond on June 28.

7. Trails:

- a. **Campbell Pond-** Peter started inventorying the biodiversity with iNaturalist up there. Also, The Student Conservation Association (SCA) got back to us and we are not on their 2022 schedule, regarding potential trail building around pond & possible loop trail up Reily Mtn. However, we are on the preliminary schedule for 2023. This was discussed with the selectmen. We also need to take a look at the NH Fish & Game website and guidance regarding “Trails for People & Wildlife.” <https://wildlife.state.nh.us/trails/> and contact Monadnock Conservancy’s Alex Metzger Alex@MonadnockConservancy.org regarding the trail under the town’s conservation easement. Also the need for additional Japanese Barberry removal was discussed. Peter also submitted annual questionnaire to Monadnock Conservancy. Peter to go back and measure the potential ‘Big Tree’ found earlier in the spring.
- b. **Meadow Marsh Trail** – Peter started inventorying the biodiversity with iNaturalist this past winter. Roughcut lumber was delivered on April 10 and bog bridges were repaired.
- c. **Lily Pond Trail** - Peter also started inventorying the biodiversity at the pond and along the trail with iNaturalist. Large pine tree blew down in wind storm (on Map 227, Lot 7.1). It will be cut up at future work day.

- d. **Hurlin Property**- Linda contacted Caleb Platt about brush hogging and he said he would be glad to do it. We need to come up with a plan to rehab the fields hopefully with Jeremy taking the lead. Mowing the field to keep it open will be the first step.
 - e. **Meetinghouse Hill Trail** to the Meetinghouse Hill Cemetery needs to be re-established. Peter contacted Andrew Robblee before the pandemic re: new trail easement agreement. Peter will revisit after pandemic is resolved.
 - f. Also, need to develop an integrated trail management plan for town and Master Plan. This is to be re-visited after the pandemic is resolved.
 - g. Several post tops have been made for installation this year.
<https://naturegroupie.org/citizen-science/picture-post> and
<https://picturepost.ou.edu/index.jsp> We need to commit to the project....
8. **Contookook & North Branch Rivers Local Advisory Committee (CNBRLAC):** Rod says check out the new website <https://www.cnbrlac.org/> . Rod announced that Jim Creighton is the new Antrim member on the committee.
9. **iNaturalist** may be accessed at <https://www.inaturalist.org/> Please check out the website. It is very interesting and fun to use. Download the app to your phone and start documenting the natural world around you. For things that are unknown they provide an app for kids called Seek https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/seek_app They both work great. Check them out! Please get back to me if you have concerns or questions.
10. **Hikes:** Hikes to be coordinated with trail work above....
- a. **Campbell Pond**-
 - b. **Meadow Marsh** –
 - c. **Lily Pond** - I have started iNaturalist there. There is a large tree that came down and needs to be cut up. **June tbd.**
11. **Planning Board/ ZBA:**
12. **Intents to Cut**- active
 21-017-18T- Greatwood, LLC, Map 235 Lot 014, Craig Rd., (72 of 663.6+/- acres cut)
 22-017-01T- Wait, Map 214, Lot 004, Elm Avenue, (18 of 19 +/- acres cut)
13. **Workshops & meetings**
Harris Center <https://harriscenter.org/events>
Monadnock Conservancy: <http://www.monadnockconservancy.org>
Society for the Protection of NH Forests: <https://forestsociety.org/>
Nature Conservancy: <https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/united-states/new-hampshire/contact-us/>

Next Meeting: tentatively June 23, 2022 at 7pm at Town Hall.