

Meeting: Antrim Conservation Commission, June 23, 2022 at 7:40 pm meeting at Town Hall.

Attendees: Peter Beblowski '25', Linda Bryer '24', Keith Wolsiefer '25' and Ron Cheetham '23'

Public: John Anderson, Bob Holmes, and Martha Pinello

Absent: Frank Gorga '24', Jeremy DeLisle '23', Rod Zwirner-Member-at-Large

1. Public hearing was held at 7pm to present information regarding the grant of conservation fund monies to the Harris Center for Conservation Education for purchase of 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. See separate hearing notes.
2. Draft May 2022 meeting notes were reviewed, and accepted.
3. **Invasive Plants –Burning Bush removal at Town Hall** this was discussed and 8-10 mature (4-6 year old) blueberry bushes have been obtained by Jeremy. The daffodills between the bushes are to be removed and dried for fall replanting on Sunday June 26 at 3pm. The removal of the bushes 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.
 - a. Linda will direct and talk to Jim Plourde about using the town backhoe for the bush removals.
4. Soak Up the Rain has scheduled another day of site visits at Gregg Lake and Steels Pond on June 28.
5. **Trails:**
 - a. **Campbell Pond**- Peter is continuing inventorying the biodiversity at the pond with iNaturalist.

The Student Conservation Association (SCA) has gotten back to us and we are on the preliminary schedule for 2023. A meeting site visit in the field is planned to occur this summer (possibly in July). 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 to be accomplished in the fall. Peter went back to the potential 'Big Ash Tree' that was found in April and it split at the base and came down during a late spring wind storm.
 - b. **Meadow Marsh Trail** – Peter is continuing the inventorying the biodiversity with iNaturalist.
 - c. **Lily Pond Trail** - Peter is continuing the inventorying the biodiversity with iNaturalist at the pond and along the trail with iNaturalist. Large pine tree on Map 227, Lot 7.1 that blew down needs to be cut up at future work day in July, day and time tbd.
 - d. **Hurlin Property**- Linda is to contact Caleb Platt about brush hogging and get him to do it after August 1. 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....

6. **Contoocook & 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.
7. **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.
8. **Hikes and paddles:** Hikes to be coordinated with trail work above....
 - a. **Campbell Pond**- in the fall _____
 - b. **Meadow Marsh** – July 24 time tbd
 - c. **Lily Pond** - I have started iNaturalist there. There is a large tree that came down and needs to be cut up. July 3 time tbd. As weather becomes available set time and notify John Anderson and Bob Holmes.
 - d. **Gregg Lake** – tbd later in summer. _____
 - e. **Willard Pond** – tbd later in summer. _____
9. **Planning Board/ ZBA:**
10. **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)
 22-017-02T- Martin, Map 212, Lot 058, Stacey Hill Road, (14 of 16 +/- acres cut)
 22-017-03T- Greatwood, LLC, Map 235 Lot 014, Craig Rd., (72 of 663.6+/- acres cut)
11. **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/>
12. Peter will be attending **Wonderful World of Moths at Night** event at Little River Park in Lee, NH. This event is being held from 8:00 pm -11:00 pm on Saturday, June 25, 2022. Sam Jaffe and the Caterpillar Lab will be the formal portion of the program starting with an introduction to moth lighting. We will spend the rest of the time observing and learning about what comes to the light station as well as examining moths and other insects under the microscope.
13. Peter attended a Harris Center bioblitz workshop in Peterborough at the **Hiroshi property**. It was a mini bioblitz through iNaturalist. The 1.9-mile Hiroshi Loop Trail in Peterborough gently winds its way through field, forest, and along Nubanusit Brook, and offers a gorgeous view of Dinsmore Pond. There have been 436 observations made at the property. 214 species have been identified to date by 83 identifiers and 20 observers. You can go to the Harris Center Biodiversity page in iNaturalist and check the continuing project numbers.
14. Discussion on commission property ownership and potential trail maintenance and stewardship documentation needs to be formalized. Peter to start to gather information.
15. The Gregg Lake loons have once again successfully fledged. The chicks (2) have been well documented by Frank. <http://gorga.org/blog/> Thanks Frank for capturing the adult loons and chicks.
16. **Bennington Conservation Commission** paddle on the Contoocook is scheduled for this Saturday June 25 at 9 am, meet at the covered bridge boat launch in Greenfield.

Next Meeting: tentatively July 28, 2022 at 6pm at Town Hall.