

Conservation Commission Minutes

7/12/22

Meeting convened at 6:35 pm.

New business:

USVLT Conservation Planning:

Commission discussed a request from the Upper Saco Valley Land Trust to participate in their current strategic planning process by filling out a survey indicating the commission's priorities for conservation in the land trust's service area.

There was agreement that aquifer, wellhead and watershed protection are a priority for the Commission, along with wildlife corridors, landscape connectivity, highly ranked natural communities, and unfragmented forest blocks. Commission filled out the form as a group and submitted it to the land trust.

Saco Protection Coalition Meeting Invitation:

The commission received an invitation to a meeting to discuss building a coalition focusing on a "Wild and Scenic River" designation from the National Park Service for the Saco River. Several members plan to attend the virtual meeting on Monday, July 18 to learn more about what such a designation would mean and possible opportunities.

Intervale-Gen trail concept:

Mike would like to start approaching landowners about the feasibility of creating an offroad pedestrian/bicycle trail corridor between Intervale and Glen to provide a safer and more sustainable transportation option for local residents and visitors. The commission is in support of the idea. Mike will draft a paragraph and sketch map describing the potential project and a letter for landowners. If there is interest among the landowners along the proposed route, the commission will discuss future steps and possibly reach out to trails organizations to coordinate with their efforts.

Old business:

Dump site update:

Chris has not managed to contact the Iovinos, the property owners of the old dump site, to request permission to access the site for a volunteer cleanup of the river channel.

Conservation fund:

Commission discussed the possibility of proposing a warrant article to contribute money to the town's conservation fund, with the goal of having funds available for occasional projects, such as neighborhood clean-up days, or to provide matching funds for future grant opportunities that may arise for conservation projects.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Next month's meeting will be at 6:30 again.