

Draft of Minutes of Starksboro Conservation Commission June Meeting
Monday June 24, 5:30 pm
Starksboro Library

Agenda

1. We will hear from Elizabeth Doran PhD, *Research Assistant Professor*, Project Principal Investigator, Gund Institute for Environment. She contacted the SCC in May and was given permission to access Starksboro's conserved land for a study "to better understand the ecological diversity and habitat health of river corridors and floodplains within the Lewis Creek watershed". She will describe the project and answer any of our questions.

History of change in the landscape - studying due to historical and modern concerns. Flooding. Infrastructure. What is washing downstream to the lake. Habitats being affected. Nutrients, flooding hazard mitigation, and habitat through functioning floodplains initiative. Agriculture, forests, streams, urban - all add to the nutrient load going to the lake. She is studying habitat, plants and animals, not nutrient flow. Projects to improve river floodplain access during storm events. Look for areas that don't reflect the expected state of wetland or floodplain. Setting up cameras, and collecting vegetation data. River monitors for inundation. Otters are an indicator species of river to floodplain connections. Doing occupancy modeling and comparing to predicted/likelihood models and analyzing differences. Data being used by state and TMDL to distribute the money and allocate resources to different projects in the watersheds.

Reviewed and approved the April and May minutes.

2. Mowing of the Creekside Trail. An update from Robert.
Has been mowed for years by Norm with Dennis' tractors. Dennis can't loan any more. Robert visited with Kevin Kennedy and Norm. Discussed having Norm mow regularly, and if it's wet or gets too high have Kevin do it.
3. Updating the bylaws.
4. Presentation of a plan for dealing with invasive plants at the South Riparian Parcel.
Short discussion about continuing invasive management work at the Cota lands.

Discussion of POW (protectors of Wildlife) installation of a beaver deceiver on Dan Hale's property at Baldwin Pond has been completed. This project was paid for by POW. Jennifer will draft a letter to the select board, the rest of the SCS give input, and then it be sent to select board by SCS.

Next steps:

- update the bylaws

- plan for dealing with invasive plants

The public is welcome to attend.