

Conservation Commission Meeting 3/12/18

Present: Ashley Bies, Dante Corsano, Mike Purcell, Kevin Kennedy, Jaime Tanner

New Business:

Update on stuff at the college

Student put a couple of trail cams up at potential road crossings near the college
We will set up meeting to walk potential Nordic ski trail after the college's spring break.

A student is hoping to carry out a study this summer at south pond putting together a plant inventory

Ashley was contacted by Stephen Dotson who is in the conceptual stage of a knotweed control program. This would involve removing knotweed and harvesting roots for medicinal products. The profits would fund the control methods. He is especially interested in riparian areas.

Town Meeting Update:

When the state representative came one topic that was brought up was the Current Use program, both in terms of how it incentivizes logging vs. conservation and that a lot of landowners don't have the 25 acre minimum landholding. They discussed the possibility that conservation land use could be included in Current Use (for maximum public, biodiversity and climate benefit) and for several landowner to join in one Current Use plan.

An amendment to the Climate change resolution was made to include biodiversity

There is a combined \$1600 budget for both the Planning and Conservation Commissions – the breakdown between the two is unclear

Other Business:

GRWA – Conservation Easement Workshop for landowner is Saturday 24th 9-12:30 at the College. Previous folks that have already gone through it could talk to folks exploring the option.

Ashley reached out to CCs in neighboring towns north of us but is hoping to hear back now that Town Meeting has passed.

Coordinating tracking winter wildlife movements – Jaime on Thursday, Ashley and Dante on Monday

Pieter will take minutes next meeting