

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:35. Members present: Ann Welsh, Gale Carey, Mike Everngam, Vin Dell'Ova, John Carroll, Sally Tobias. Members present on Zoom: John Nachilly, Mike Drooker. Town Staff: Todd Selig, Rich Reine, Tom Brightman, Cathy Fletcher
2. Meeting agenda was approved with one addition- Discussion of work the city of Portsmouth needs to do on their water line at Wagon Hill was inserted after agenda item 3. Approved unanimously.
3. The May minutes were approved with minor changes.
4. Rich Reine gave an update on the bridge project at Wagon Hill. Plans have been submitted to DES for wetland review and permitting. Rich discussed the plans, and the changes that will be made to the trail network. John Carroll asked if anticipated sea level rise was considered, and Rich said that DES included the issue in the permitting process. He detailed strategies being employed to keep visitors on the new trails and away from sensitive areas being closed off and restored.
5. Rich Reine then spoke to the committee about repairs the city of Portsmouth needs to do to their water lines. The water pipe lines run through Wagon Hill, and the city has a 40-foot easement across the property to allow them to service the pipe line. The City of Portsmouth and the Town of Durham are in discussions to use a different route through the property that would do less damage than the route taken by the easement.
6. Cathy Fletcher, the Durham Sustainability Fellow, presented the Draft Draft Climate Action Plan. She discussed what a Climate Action plan is, walked through the town's commitment to climate goals, and discussed the specific actions included in the plan.

The plan has both short term and long-term goals, and the action items are focused primarily on what can be accomplished in the next two years. The plan includes two goals where the LSSC is the lead actor.

1. Under Transportation: Evaluate how the municipal, university, and NGO trails can be better connected to Durham's downtown by 2024.
2. Under Natural Resources: Partner with UNH to incorporate an educational campaign about the importance of land sequestration and best land use practices by 2024.

After the presentation, the committee members asked questions, and gave feedback on the plan.

The committee formally commended Cathy for her work on the plan by unanimous vote.

7. Tom Brightman updated the committee on volunteer projects. There was a spring clean-up at the Milne Nature Sanctuary, ATO cleared buckthorn at Thompson farm, and Garlic Mustard was pulled at Stolworthy and the Mill Road area.

Volunteers from Liberty Mutual helped put up new signs at Wagon Hill, and UNH students collected 9 more surveys at Steven's Woods.

Tom described two programs in the planning stages by UNH Cooperative Extension and the town of Durham/Conservation Commission that would follow up on the ideas presented by Doug Tallamy. The first would be **Nature in your backyard** – the public could visit public and private gardens that use native plants. The landowners would be there to talk about what they

have done and take questions. Cooperative Extension and Durham Conservation Commission are actively looking for volunteers, and hoping to involve Durham, Lee, Madbury and Dover.

The second idea is to have an Invasive Species round table, held in Durham, and invite other Conservation Commissions to join, and use it as a way to exchange ideas for managing invasive plants on public properties.

The last item on Tom's updates was concerned the White Trail reroute proposed by Steve Eisenhaure. UNH has closed down several trails on its Thompson Farm property, cutting off access used by the Carriage Trails neighborhood. Steve Eisenhaure, UNH Land Coordinator, suggested a reroute that utilized a portion of the carriage trail easement. The problem with the reroute, from the town and neighbor's perspective is that it would require a complex wetland crossing with DES permitting. John Nachilly proposed a trail through Thompson Farm that would not require wetlands crossings. Steve was not enthusiastic about John's proposal. Tom suggested that UNH's Woodland Committee wanted fewer not more, trails on UNH property. Tom and John will see if Steve would be willing to put the Thompson Farm version before the Woodlands Committee.

8. John Nachilly discussed some conceptual greenway connection ideas that he had brought before the Conservation Commission. He went over several longer trails that would allow people to walk from town through a network of trails through both private and public property to access town conservation lands. This would help ease parking congestion, and also crowding on properties by spreading out trails. Tom Brightman was asked if there were sections of these longer trails that would be easier to accomplish. He said he would look at which of our properties are most heavily used, what environmental issues are involved, whether the impediments are major or minor, and coming up with a plan. We also will need to decide what the cost in time or money will be for trail upkeep.

The committee discussed how to get this proposal off the ground, and Tom suggested we could talk to Strafford Regional Planning. Other suggestions were talking to Madbury for a trail that would go through their town, or to the school district that encompasses the towns of Durham, Madbury and Lee.

The Wagon Track trail will be on next agenda; Ann Welsh will try to get the plan from the early nineties.

Mike Everngam made the point that in keeping with some of our climate goals, the trails we choose to work on should also be considered in light of their ability to help people walk to work.

9. Due to the length of the meeting, this item was put off to the next meeting.
10. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00am