

Jefferson Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
18 August 2020

1. Present were Nancy Decourcey, Charles Muller, Jamie Savage, and David Govatski.
2. The meeting was held starting at 7 PM on the lawn outside the Town Hall. We kept twice the normal social distance.
3. The July minutes were approved as amended.
4. Dave discussed the DOT Red Brook Project. Dave was in contact with Arin Mills of the DOT who asked the JCC about any environmental concerns on this project. The JCC reviewed the proposal and found no issues or concerns with this project.
5. Osprey Monitoring. Dave said that this was the first osprey that has nested at Pondicherry since records were kept starting in 1890. One chick fledged on August 3rd.
6. Invasive species work at Cedar Marsh. Dave mentioned that the US Fish and Wildlife Service spent a day eliminating purple loosestrife from Cedar Marsh and will be back again next year to eliminate more of this invasive plant.
7. VRAP report. Charles confirmed that all of the borrowed Volunteer River Assessment Program tools were returned by Morgan Stonecipher.
8. Easement inspection. Jamie plans to flag the boundaries of the Hartley Tract in the next month.
9. Pondicherry Rail Trail and other work. Dave reported that the Trails Bureau will complete work on the popular rail trail to Cherry Pond in September. The surface will be covered with ledge pack from the AB Quarry in Lancaster. The surface will be more suitable for bicycles and wheelchairs.
10. The NHACC meeting will be virtual.
11. The new State Forester nominee is Patrick Hackley and confirmation is expected on August 26th.
12. The new Fish and Game Director is Scott Mason from North Stratford.
13. There has been a substantial increase in biking and hiking traffic on the rail trail this summer. Local residents are using the trail for exercise, some on a daily basis.
14. The Northwoods Conservation Corps crew is working at Pondicherry Refuge for the month of August. They have replaced 32 bog bridges with new planks, cleared 8 miles of trail including the Mooseway, cleared wildlife openings and made other improvements.
15. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

David Govatski
22 August 2020