

Conservation Commission Natural Resources Inventory Subcommittee Minutes November 8, 2023 3:00pm

Meeting got underway at 3:05PM. Lisa Murphy, a regional planner from Strafford Regional Planning introduced herself. Others in attendance were Dennis Regan (LRAC), Dawn Genes (Conservation Commission), Laurel Cox (Conservation Commission), Katrin Kasper (Select Board) and Andy Robertson (town administrator), Mary Woodward (energy committee)

There was general discussion about who should be on the committee. A. Robertson reported that he had also reached out to the ag committee and to Don Quigley, a local forester and resident expert on forestry. L. Cox suggested getting a representative from the Historical Society.

L. Murphy explained that the natural resource inventory project was funded by a PREPA grant and reviewed project goals and deliverables. She handed out a project schedule with a 12 month time line. L. Murphy discussed the maps she thinks SRPC will need to create – SRPC has a new GIS mapping person (Jackson Rand) who can create maps for the project. K. Kasper explained the importance of maps in identifying and controlling invasive species.

D. Regan inquired as to proposed map detail and questioned if all roads, trails and transportation corridors would be included? D. Genes pointed that a lot of the maps described already exist and referenced the 2021 Wildlife Action plan project. D. Genes would like to see aquifers, wells and the like included in mapping. D. Genes also feels that item “3.2” on the time line (Translating Research into Action) is the single most important item on the schedule.

L. Murphy told the group there would be 2 workshops to engage the public in the project; first there would be a “World Café” workshop. This would be held in a large room with multiple activity tables that attendees would rotate through. D. Regan mentioned calling attention to outside influences like pollution in rivers that flows in from outside of town. D. Genes affirmed. A. Robertson called attention to Durham/UNH’s “West Edge” development project and its possible effects on Lee. L. Murphy would like to hold the world café event in January.

The second event would be a community workshop, probably in May or June.

L. Murphy would like to launch a survey, probably in January using the world café event to promote survey participation. L. Murphy has draft survey questions.

L. Murphy told the group that environmental consultants needed to be hired, she has some people in mind. L. Murphy also noted that Dover is undertaking the same process and that it might be a good idea to join with Dover and share consultants.

D. Genes said that hiring consultants before the group develops priorities would be premature. D. Genes mentioned the names of some consultants the group might consider once priorities were in focus.

D. Genes again brought up the importance of well mapping and discussed sodium in drinking water as a concern.

L. Cox said she was very much opposed to partnering with Dover for consulting work, she feels Dover would overshadow Lee and that Lee would come out on the short end of such an agreement.

The group agreed to discuss draft survey questions and review map set needs at the next meeting. The next meeting will be on 12/06/23 at 10AM at the PSC upstairs.

Minutes compiled by A. Robertson