

In attendance:

Betsy Gaiser

Ellen Hosford

Aaron Weed

Sean Ogle

Heather Buckner

Steve Faccio (Strafford)

New attendees

Sean Olger and Heather Buckner Stopped by and mentioned their interest in joining the commission. They will be excellent additions to the group and we are happy for their interest and enthusiasm.

Vernal Pool mapping project

Steve Faccio from VCE stopped by to provide some background and an overview of the vernal pool mapping. Initially began as a statewide effort to map vernal pools. Steve as a resident of Strafford has also conducted mapping with his town.

Potential pool sites were chosen from a combination of aerial photos and other data layers. Prior to visiting potential pools, he sent out flyers to landowners to get permission for access and data collection. Steve provided Aaron with the sample letters that he sent.

Verbal pools are class 2 wetlands that are regulated.

In addition to collecting data on the biological community (presence of indicator species such as wood frogs and salamanders), the program also estimates size and depth of pools along with other data. Need to go to a pool when there are egg masses present, typically sometime after first warm rains.

As a kickoff Steve has offered to provide a workshop to train residents on mapping the pools. We decided on April 28th 9am-1pm as the tentative date but this may be moved to an earlier date if it is warmer. 20 people max.

Betsy has support from the UV Sierra Club and will work with them to create the advertisement. Preference will be given to Tunbridge residents but the workshop will be open to others in the area.

Next steps:

- Betsy will send announcement to UV Sierra Club. Once announcement goes out inquires will be directed to her and Aaron of tentative attendees.
- Use the list of potential sites found [here](#) to determine land ownership. Contact landowners to request permission for mapping. Betsy mentioned that Rudi would be a good resource to get those names.
- Send out request to town residents for other vernal pool sites and to request access.
- Put together a proposal for the tiny grants to support supplies and other aspects of the work

- Announce workshop and compile list of attendees.

Trail mapping project

Ellen Horsford continues to work on her trail maps and associated narratives that will go into a small booklet. Ellen provided an update on her progress and spoke with Sean about the possibility of digitizing her maps and compiling into a book.