

## Conservation Commission meeting 7.31.17

Rudi:

- Agency of Nat Resources Atlas
  - Online mapping program
  - No “high tier” habitat in tunbridge b/c no “interior” forest blocks due to dense network of roads
  - Conflicted definition of high priority habitat
    - Contiguous forest habitat
  - Great bed rock and soil in tunbridge- best sugar maples in the world
  - This landscape supports small farms and homesteads, people want to be here and stay here
  - Most high priority land in tunbridge located in taylor valley
  - Can get to bio finder through ANR Atlas
  - Tons of information
    - Shows opportunities for lots of different resources
      - Water, wind, soil, timber
- BioFinder
  - Takes some time to figure out
  - Emphasizes eastern side of town, not much in west/southwest
    - Lots of high value habitat in west and southwest parts of town
- Town planning: big concerns about forest fragmentation
  - Harder to manage when fragmented: timber, wildlife, farming
  - Zoning: to really enforce, we would need a larger municipal govt, not much govt in this town, would need to change a lot to make it happen effectively
- As of 2018, town plans must address forest fragmentation
- Public planning commission meeting: AUG 21
  - Review 4 sections for early adoption
  - Proposing 27 acre lots- elidgeable for current use
  - Tunbridge has more parcels in current use than any other town in the state
    - In a way due to forest fragmentation due to road net work
- Dialogue between landowners
  - Why post?
  - Land use plans?
  - Cooperation between landowners/public/recreation
  - What is it the towns people of tunbridge want?
- Log market is still flooded
  - Logging is almost at a standstill
    - If in current use, must do some amount of harvesting
    - Many logs going to chips now
      - Electricity, heat
    - Mature forest=not a working landscape IE current use
    - Lots of young forest here, must be thinned to be kept working
- ACT 178: Forest Fragmentation

- Orange county has never been high priority for data collection
  - Public forums: what do you value in the town?
- Linking Lands Alliance
- Discussion of state prioritized lands
  - Does Tunbridge have different priorities?
  - Public forum?
- Crossroads Clearning
  - Clean out trail so it is accessible for hikers, bikers, equestrians
  - Chainsaws, volunteers, assess the situation
  - Weed whack Euclid's end (contact him to let him know)
- Moody road cleanup?
- Orchard road?
- Town Forest road and trail clean up?
  - Make roads and trails passable
  - Signage & maps
  - Phil Scott's new initiative (VOICE: Vermont Outdoor Innovation Coalition)?
  - Get grant money for trail work/signage
- Making an appearance at the Planning Commission meeting (8.21.17)
  - Select Board meetings?
  - Public forums?
    - Reports from residents: written & images
      - Wildlife, what's been into your chicken coop, odd plants, objects of interest
      - Trail cams? Creating a slide show
      - **Education**
        - About wildlife, plants, hunting, fishing, trapping
        - Help people understand what they are contributing to by feeding animals that shouldn't be fed