

Notes from April 16 2015 Conservation Meeting

Attending the meeting

Jerry	Rekart
Tony	Mortimer
Joseph	Hovious
Bill	Bennett
Harry	Schmus
Rick	Bovino
Kit	Nielsen

Action items are in **bold**

Project Status Reports

- Education/Communications package workgroup – Harry, Tony, Bill, Chuck
Group reviewed an outline on communication including where to get existing information and photos to develop presentation packages. Location of past presentation information and tools was discussed. Items discussed were a speaker/table kit for use, banners and flyers, a story line for past projects, past newsletters, and existing photos on Google drive.
Kit will let group know how to access photos on Google Drive
_____ will contact James Belden to see if he still has presentation information
Jerry will find past newsletters
- East Aspentuck, connectivity group – Paul, Bill, Randy
Joe shared Randy's email on discussion with HVA. A request was sent to Pratt Center regarding availability of the yurt for training on May 29. Alternatives if Pratt is not available were discussed including HRO and the Lutheran Church in Sandy Hook. We are waiting on feedback from Pratt to move forward. Agreed to open the training to other TU chapters once we know the date and how many can be trained.
- Still River Coalition group – Jerry, Bill
Awaiting hearing from the Coalition on this item
- Stream walk training group – Joe, Randy
Joe has traded phone calls with Todd Bobowick of NRCS. **Followup by Joe needed.** Randy Walker email indicates that HVA may be able to train on this topic.
- Pond Brook (or alternate project stream) group – Steve R, Jerry, Joe
Group toured Pond Brook on 4/11. A number of ideas were discussed. Contact with DEEP (Mike Humphries) was considered as the next step. Email has been sent to Mike with no response to date. **Steve will look at past temperature data from Pond Brook to be sent by Joe.**
- Pootatuck Deep Brook group – Steve Z, Joe, Mike F
See discussion on Tree project below.

Breaking News – Inland Wetlands will hear an application to construct a 74 unit housing project in Sandy Hook Center on the Pootatuck banks on 4/22. Joe will check application to see if we should comment.

New project – Group discussed the Elm Research Institute tree planting project, a one time planting with need for some maintenance. Joe discussed the job description. Trees have been ordered with plans to plant 25 by CVTU. **Bill and Rick will meet with Joe to discuss where to plant and permissions needed.**

Thermograph placement for 2015 discussion

- 9 workable units, 12 in past
- History since 2006 in Deep Brook, Pootatuck, later in Pond Brook, Halfway River
- Some unknown duplication with State WQ and fisheries units

Group discussed past use of data and possible placement in new locations on Pond Brook, East Aspentuck, or Shepaug. We will need new units to do this and should contact DEEP first to see if they have plans.

Joe to contact Paul to see his interest in possible Shepaug placement

Kit will contact Lions and/or Exchange Club for possible funds once Joe sends her some background information

Macroinvertebrate testing in 2015 discussion

- Long history of test results
- DEEP has changed positions on program emphasis, more quality control and training, new focus is on smaller streams, new streams, little value for assessing changing stream conditions, less program support
- Good fisher education program – “What’s in YOUR fly box?”
- Good youth program

Group discussed history and problems with continuing “as is” including DEEP limited support.

Harry expressed interest in possibly leading this effort in the future. **Joe to send Harry links**

Meeting reports – Committee members will do reports at future Chapter meetings. **Joe to coordinate**

Next Meeting plans – 5/14 at Neilsen’s, status reports plus 1 hour online TU training activity in “Angler Science”