

## Notes from March 24 15 Conservation Meeting

### Attending the meeting

Jerry	Rekart
Tony	Mortimer
Joseph	Hovious
Bill	Bennett
Paul	Valeri
Harry	Schmus
Mike	Fatse
Kit	Nielsen
Randy	Walker

At our February 19 meeting we agreed that our priorities would be toward

1) Existing wild trout waters 2) Existing trout waters 3) Repair/ restore other waters with an emphasis on advocacy as necessary to protect those waters. Some priority area were to

- ID Other wild trout waters in our area including adding a brook trout layer to maps
- Cold water refuges
- Connectivity projects
- Stream walks/mapping to identify problem areas
- Temperature enhancement projects
- Connectivity issues including culverts, dams, and fish ladders

The group discussed some of the potential conservation projects that came from the February 19 meeting. The topic and discussion/actions for each are described below.

- Develop packages for education/communication including a conservation communications package that can be used easily.

The group watched video programs prepared by Chuck from the slides used at the February meeting and by Kit for the banquet. Group agreed that some additional pictures, a slower presentation, and a voice over would be helpful. Target audiences were discussed including Town Committees, land owners for potential projects, groups at events, students, etc. Versions will be made available on the Chapter website for member use.

### Actions

Harry, Tony, Bill and Chuck (when available) will work on a voice over and updating and videos and report at the next meeting

Tony and Cheryl Fatse are available to take pictures of activities. We need to make arrangements when work will be performed to get this done

- East Aspetuck partnership with Pratt Center to review and identify connectivity or other issues in New Milford (Paul Valeri and Bill Bennett)

Randy has training and equipment for culvert/connectivity studies. The group would like to work with Pratt Center to get additional members trained so that members can work in their

local streams. The thought is to get a training at Pratt, perhaps in the Yurt. The group thought that we need an “umbrella” group like HVA to work with.

#### Actions

Bill will talk with Doug Peterson who is on the Pratt Board to get his input

Paul will be meeting with Peter Pratt on another topic in the near future and will discuss with him

Randy will discuss possible training with Michael Jastremeski at HVA.

- Participate in Still River coalition (Bill Bennett and Jerry Rekart)

Jerry will work with the planning group while Bill will be with the working group. Some concerns were expressed that the Still River does not meet our criteria as a cold water resource but we will discuss further as plans develop. We will get a report at the next session

- Identify a useful protocol for what to look for in stream walks (Joe Hovious)

The group is interested in obtaining training on stream surveys to identify areas that might need work and potential projects. Potential trainers were NRCS or HVA. A phone app that can be used to take pictures and record locations and data has been identified. It was suggested that other Chapters might want to participate in training.

#### Actions

Joe will work with NRCS and/or HVA to see if training can be arranged

- Pond Brook, Shepaug, or alternate as a project stream (Hovious, Rekart)

Members were interested in using stream walk protocol on Pond Brook. The general thought was that Pond Brook may have potential for improvement work for the fishery, possible adding depth with weirs and bank stabilization.

#### Actions

Jerry, Nick, Mike and Joe will do a stream walk on Pond Brook

- Continue Deep Brook/Pootatuck efforts (Steve Zakur, Joe Hovious, Mike Fatse will continue efforts)

Next meeting, about a month to review progress on work. Provide progress report at meetings and post meeting notes on Chapter website and invite other members to attend.