

## **Stoddard Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes**

Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Online

Members Present: (marked with XX)

Geoff Jones\_\_XX

Scott Semmens\_\_XX

Paul Crosby\_\_XX

Helen Tam-Semmens\_\_XX

Bob Fee\_\_XX

Margo Santoro\_\_XX

1. Approved minutes of March 25, 2020.

2. Discussed a letter received from DOT soliciting input (asking 11 questions) regarding a highway project to replace culverts underneath Rt 9 which serve as outlet to the pond next to Hayes garage. The outlet travels about 3,500' before entering Robb Reservoir.

Considering that Rt 9 is part of a major road that relentlessly bisects north and south, spanning the entire length of the state east to west, it would be good to provide some wildlife corridors on it so that wildlife can travel north-south. Stoddard would be a prime location to install one or two of such wildlife corridors, due to our abundance of conservation land and wildlife. Some Con Com members have made such a suggestion, that DOT consider designing the culvert to also act as a wildlife corridor. Con Com members will write up this and other suggestions they may have in emails, so that Geoff can consolidate the response to DOT.

3. DOT's questions have brought up the subject that Stoddard presently does not have any designated prime wetlands. However, some wetlands such as the Robb Reservoir may merit to be one. Any such designation would need careful consideration, so that responsible timber harvest and timber harvest trucks crossing the land, as well as residences close to the wetland won't be adversely affected. The Con Com will discuss this further at a later date.

4. Next scheduled meeting on May 27, 2020 at 7:30, to be conducted online.