

**Strafford Conservation Commission
Minutes
October 7, 2013**

Present: Liz Evans Harmony Anderson Carolyn Page Dave Perkins Scott A. Young
Randy Jacunski Kerry Omand Bruce Smith Susan Barnes

Guests: Annett Schloss Phil Auger Dan Kern Matt Dustin

Opening and Introductions

The meeting was opened at 7:00 pm. A motion was made by Dave and seconded by Kerry to accept the August 2013. **minutes**. Approved. (Note: there was no meeting in September.)

Guest Presentations

Matt Dustin – Completion of the work on the Spencer Smith trail: Matt brought a thick, bound book of his Eagle Scout Project which included colored pictures of the water bars and the kiosk that he made. He completed 11 bars: three new log ones near the top, one made out of stone, and the replacements of others (one 40 feet long). Matt has been monitoring the sites and said that the water bars need frequent cleaning. It was decided that a poster on the kiosk asking hikers to help remove the leaves and debris might accomplish this. He also suggests a large fall and spring cleanup. After Matt left the meeting, Harmony asked about giving him a certificate for all his hard work.

Annett Schloss – Placing of a Picture Post in the IRCR: Annette introduced herself as a research scientist at UNH. She is working on a digital earth watch called the Picture Post Network. A picture post is a stable, permanent platform located in ecologically important locations with a hexagon screwed to the top. It allows each photographer to line up his/her camera to take pictures in 360 degrees (plus one straight up). Then the pictures can be uploaded to the Picture Post website: picturepost.unh.edu. The goal is to document changes in the landscape over long periods of time. Annett asked for our permission to place a Picture Post in the IRCR.

MOTION: Harmony moved that we agree to permitting a picture post in the IRCR. Dave seconded. Approved.

Dan Kern, Phil Auger – Progress on the Boy Scout project: Three other projects were also included in their presentation. A public hearing will be held before any money is transferred especially for Crooked Run and the Bow Lake frontage.

1. A gift of 18 +/- acres with a long section of road frontage and tillable land on Province Road, east.
2. A gift of 44 acres abutting Blue Hills conservation land and Blue Job WMA on First Crown Point.
3. A sale of approximately 5 acres including 1800 feet of Bow Lake frontage and two islands.
4. A sale of Crooked Run, the Boy Scout property. This 500 acre preserve which encompasses three towns, has about 180 acres in Strafford.

MOTION: Harmony made a motion to tentatively approve funding of these four projects based upon site inspections before the next meeting. Kerry seconded. Approved.

Site walk: Boy Scout Reservation -10:30 Monday, October 14. Meet at Dave's on Province Road.
First Crown Point Property – 10:00 Wednesday, October 23. Meet at the Grange Hall.

Dan gave us a sneak preview of the new map that Bear-Paw is preparing and asked for any suggestions about what we would like to see on the map.

DES application Liz showed us the proposal for trail work on the Corey Coldwell easement property. The plans were for culverts for wetland crossings. The commissioners approved this for Liz's signature.

Old Business

IRCR – Some saw an article about hiking in the IRCR written up in the Foster's Sunday News and the Rochester Times.

Evans Mountain

Old Trail Restoration Liz promises to get in touch with the women who know the old trails now that the camping season is over.

Town Forest

Work on the road/timber harvest Scott reported that all the road work is done. Six to 8 open areas for wildlife were cut and left to reseed naturally. The new upper part of the road has been seeded with rye grass. The Messengers have submitted the bill for the work.

Bog crossing restoration on Spencer Smith Harmony was in contact with Jerry Bowman who made the first bridges. They will be back in contact. Dave gave the dimensions of the leftover pressure treated wood and rebar that he is storing. This work is tabled until next spring.

New Business none

Other

Dates: Site Walks_____ **Oct 14 @ 10:30**__ **Dave's**_____ **and**_____ **Oct 23 @ 10:00**__ **Grange**__

Next Meeting: Monday, November 4 7:00 pm. Town Hall

Calendar article ideas

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Enz Page