

**Strafford Conservation Commission**  
**Minutes**  
**February 1, 2010**

Present: Liz Evans Harmony Anderson Carolyn Page Al Pratt Dave Perkins Scott A. Young  
Dan Phelan  
Cal Schroeder Bruce Smith Irving Johnson Kerry Omand

Guests: Eric Rowe Susan Fell Ellen Snyder

**Opening and Introductions**

The meeting was opened at 7:05 pm. A motion was made by Dave and seconded by Scott to accept the January 10 **minutes**. Approved.

**Guest Presentations**

**Ellen Synder, IRCR Stewardship Plan:** All Commissioners were sent copies of the 39 page draft of the Stewardship Plan for the Isinglass and Bedford properties by email for perusal before tonight's meeting. Ellen will forward the Appendix tomorrow. Ellen was asked to clarify some of the wording and explain the accompanying maps. Cal wanted her to be sure to note that not only is the Isinglass River protected but is now flowing into the Protected Cocheco River, a new designation.

Map 6 showed the proposed trail sitings. There will be a network of foot paths and trails through the most scenic parts of the properties. Ellen said that some of the trails will need some kind of pervious surfacing. Assistance for trail layout and blazing can be had from the Appalachian Mountain Club free of charge.

She said the properties are relatively free of invasive plants, but some can be found near the proposed parking lot and along the power lines. We need to eradicate these. Dan said that there is a workshop being given by the Northwood Area Land Management Collaborative about invasives soon.

So Ellen can have the proper name to refer to this parcel, there was a re-vote on the name for the property called "Boulders" by the previous owner. To keep it consistent with the names of other town lands, it was voted by a 3 to 4 count to call the land the "Hanson Lot" in honor of a longtime former owner. The small parcel abutting the state land that the Commission bought from Walton Stiles a few years ago will be called "Walton's Lot".

Ellen asked for all further input from us to reach her by Monday, February 8. She will have the completed plan to us shortly after that. She will give us one bound copy for public use and one copy in a binder for ease in duplicating separate pages. We will also receive a CD and an electronic version. In conclusion, she thanked Scott for all the help he provided.

**Evans Mountain Project Updates:** Harmony read a message from Phil Auger who couldn't be with us tonight. All legal documents were passed on January 21 and the property is now ours with some final details yet to be hammered out. Some anticipated grants will be due in the near future. Dan Kern will keep us posted. Tom Brouillette is walking the land soon to give us a price for surveying if we need to split the land up. The Bear-Paw Biothon will be on this property in the spring. We may have to consider handicapped access to the mountain. Phil also said that a number of people owning land abutting the Evans Mountain piece are in the Wetlands Reserve Program application process. The first round closed today. He is hopeful to talk to others by the second round in April.

Other Wetlands Reserve Program properties that connect the Hanson Lot with the Bedford Lot are being surveyed and may close in early to mid spring.

**DES application** none

**Old Business**

**IRCR Sign - Final wording:** Harmony passed around the wording for the sign. Cal suggested adding the town seal. He will scan it and email it to Harmony. Liz and Carolyn will work on the wording of the first sentence. Liz said that the kiosk for the IRCR parking lot is completed.

**Financial Status of our various funds:** Liz asked for permission to pay our final bill of \$2,173.88 for the Pike projects.

MOTION : Dave moved that we pay the bill for the Pike project. Al seconded. Approved.

With this bill paid and money set aside for the properties waiting for Wetlands approval, the Commission has a little over \$16,000.00 left in its fund.

Charlie Moreno is pulling together all the payments needed for the forest bridge that will be built this year.

**New Business**

**Plowing for Town Forest Parking:** It came to our attention that people could not use the Town Forest in winter because there was no place to pull cars off the road when snow was on the ground. Liz will find out if the road agent can do this for us as part of the regular plowing of roads.

**Other:** Cal wanted to find out how other Conservation Commissions handle voting when alternates are needed. We are lucky to have so many interested people on the Commission. Liz thought that the Chair usually appointed one of the alternates to take the place of the missing member. Cal will look into it.

**Standing Committee Reports**

**Land Protection Group** – Things are looking very positive for finding new abutters to the Evans Mountain property to put their lands into easements.

**Managed Growth Group** – Dan was not too positive about the accomplishments of this committee. He said there will be a new questionnaire at Town Meeting that will focus more on agricultural land use.

**Water Quality Group** – Bruce had the report on the New Hampshire Volunteer River Assessment Program for 2009. He said that the Isinglass River Watershed Water Quality Report is now on line. Liz said that so far the Local Advisory Committee on Rivers has not been "sunsetted" by the state. Cal said that he is now vice chair of the COLAC (Cocheco River Local Advisory Committee). Harmony will invite Jeff Schloss to speak to us about the status of Bow Lake.

**Summary/Adjournment**

Next meeting date: Monday, March 1 7:00 pm. Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Enz Page