

**Strafford Conservation Commission**  
**Minutes**  
**June 1, 2009**

Present:

Liz Evans  
Harmony Anderson  
Carolyn Page  
Al Pratt  
Dave Perkins  
Scott A. Young  
Dan Phelan  
Bruce Smith  
Irving Johnson

Guests:

Anna Boudreau  
Nancy Lambert  
Phil Auger

**Opening and Introductions**

The meeting was opened at 7:02 pm. A motion was made by David and seconded by Scott to accept the May 2009 **minutes**. Approved with one abstention.

**Guest Presentations**

**Anna Boudreau and Nancy Lambert** of the Strafford Rivers Conservancy came to introduce themselves to the Commission. Anna said that they now have helped to conserve over 2,600 acres of land in Strafford County. None of this land is in the town of Strafford mainly because this is where they overlap with Bear-Paw. Aside from working with conservation commissions on land easements, they also aid in grant writing, give workshops, and hold an activity every month. They are especially helpful in lands that are located in more than one town. Towns are among their members as well as individuals. Their goal is to have better regional coordination. They are trying to gather the priorities of the local towns to put together a conservation plan for the region. They want to find out how funds are allocated by the towns. They are sending a questionnaire to Harmony.

**Phil Auger** As follow-up to last month's reference to an abutter to the Isinglass River Conservation Reserve (IRCR) who was not respecting the boundaries, Phil did talk to him and heavily marked the property lines. The abutter has cleaned up the mess. Phil said the abutter didn't realize how close to his house the line came. He suggested that we send him a thank you note. Near the same location, another abutter had their horse fence over the boundary line. Phil suggests another letter to them and he will walk the line with them and heavily flag the boundary. He will also inform them about the use of ATVs and other motor vehicles on conservation land. Phil said that we need a work day (2-3 hours) to get rid of all the fencing and trash. Wednesday, June 10 is the date set for the clean-up. We will meet at the New Bow Lake Road at 1:00 pm. Bolt cutters and chainsaws will be needed.

Phil had the help of United Way volunteers from Hannaford Market to clean up the mess left by the tenters along the river. Some of the trash included broken liquor bottles thrown into and broken in the river. Phil did find one of the offenders in his tent along with more trash. As penalty, some community service is being considered at the Bedford property. Harmony will talk to Chief Young. We also need to find out what the protocol is when we find offenders on the easements.

Scott reported ATV tracks in the town forest and fresh fire pits. Dan is going to look into "Carry in - carry out" signs.

## **DES application** none

## **Other**

Liz said there was one logging permit for a ten-acre piece on Province Road West.

Liz read a letter from Greg Jordan who works with Charlie Moreno on the town forest. He said that the level of invasive plants in the forest are at a low level now. A volunteer from Coe-Brown helped to clear a 10 acre site that had autumn olive, honey suckle, barberry, and bittersweet. The field at the entrance to the forest has some invasives but will stay under control with regular mowing. Harmony will call to find someone who is willing to do the mowing.

Liz will forward examples of signs for the IRCR.

## **Old Business**

**CTAP** - The grant from CTAP came through for the IRCR Stewardship plan. The Commission needed to select a technical assistant for the plan. We chose Ellen Snyder who has worked with this property in the past. Phil said that we may get some funding help from Fish and Game.

**Pike Project update** - Rochester did appropriate \$3,500.00 toward the fees associated with putting this property into an easement. This along with the \$4,000.00 grant, will leave approximately \$3,500.00 needed to be paid from our conservation fund.

**Cahill property** - Members of the commission walked this property in May. It is a beautiful piece of property and all of the criteria for conservation. Phil met the new owners of the property. They will be transferring the title by late June.

**IRCR border properties** - Phil said that he expects to get 4 million dollars from the Wetlands Reserve which will be spent on priority properties. He expects to get more in a second round of grants that can be further used to add properties to the IRCR.

**Cochecho River Sweep** - Dave attended and said that there was a lot of participation (100's). The Cochecho River was recently accepted into the New Hampshire Protected River program.

## **Other**

**Vernal Pools** - Bruce brought in four of the Fish and Game books on Vernal Pools. One will be put in the library, one will be kept for the Commission with Carolyn. The others are circulating with the commissioners.

## **New Business** none

## **Standing Committee Reports**

**Land Protection Group** – There are no funds to do a mailing and Bear-Paw seems to be contacting the abutters whom we would be interested, so there is no reason to meet at this time.

**Managed Growth Group** – Harmony was pleased to announce that this group is starting up again. They are considering guidelines for agricultural land preservation, and architectural guidelines for new commercial businesses. Dan is getting some examples from the town of Canterbury.

**Water Quality Group** – not meeting

**Summary/Adjournment** Dan made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Scott.

Next meeting date: Monday, **July 13th? (the 6th is part of the holiday)** 7:00 pm.  
Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Enz Page