

**Strafford Conservation Commission
Minutes
October 6, 2008**

Present: Liz Evans Harmony Anderson Carolyn Page Jack Bronnenberg Al Pratt
Bruce Smith Dave Perkins

Guests: Phil Auger Scott Young Don Clifford

1. Opening and Introductions

The meeting was opened at 7:03 pm. A motion was made by Al and seconded by Jack to accept the September 8, 2008 **minutes** with the corrected date and addition of Candace Walworth's name in section 2, paragraph 3. Approved.

2. Guest Presentations

DES application

Liz had one permit by notification. No action required.

3. Old Business

Town Forest Logging operation – sign, progress

The signs are posted thanks to Harmony and Jack.

Phil said that he and Debbie Goard, our county forester, walked in on the logging operation and everything looked very good.

Jack found a new person to mow the field at the entrance to the forest for \$150.00.

Cookies

Harmony's logger has not cut down the oak yet so we don't know if we will have any cookies.

Other

Carolyn reminded the group about discussions for preserving the Town Forests. Liz said that both the Storer Lot and the Weidman Lot have reverter clauses in the deeds to protect them. We need to protect the Stiles and the Merrill Lots. There is also the Stiles Lot on Pig Lane that needs to have a conservation easement. So far, the IRCR and Bedford properties are not designated "Town Forests". We need to ask Phil about that.

Bruce reported the results of the bio-assessment on the town's rivers. Both Nippo Brook and the Isinglass River got GOOD ratings, but the Mohawk got an EXCELLENT!

New Business

What about our new properties? What's allowed? Signs needed?

Phil said that he applied for two grants; one from the Estuaries Project and one from the Moose Plates for money for gates, parking areas and to help with the management plan for the Isinglass River Conservation Reserve and the Bedford property. So far a major block of rock and trees has been put across the power line access to prevent motorized vehicles from using that corridor and the cinder block foundation from the ICRC has been removed and rocks placed to block off the road.

Discussion on the management plan followed. Phil pointed out that the IRCR and Bedford pieces will be managed differently from the town forest. Its main emphasis is wildlife habitat. Human uses will include hiking, skiing, hunting and fishing.

Don Clifford from the snowmobile club, Strafford Swamp Stompers, then spoke. He wanted to know the commission's feelings about snowmobile use on these two properties. Since there are existing trails, we are in sympathy with the concept of continued use, but we need clarification of the wording on the property deeds to see if it is allowed. Harmony will check with Dan Kern at Bear-Paw. In the meantime, Don was asked to bring to the next meeting topographical maps to show what trail work they may be planning so we can insure best practices for stream crossings, wetlands and erosion control. Bruce asked if they had permission to cross the power line corridor. Don will check.

A discussion on “no wheeled vehicle” signs ensued.

MOTION: Dave made a motion to get official “no wheeled vehicle” signs for the IRCR, Bedford and adjoining properties. Liz seconded. Approved with one opposed. Bruce will check on the signs.

Phil presented us with the powerpoint presentation disc that was used at the land acquisition celebration. This can go on the website.

NROC- new program

The water quality group may use some of these opportunities to continue study of the town's lakes and rivers.

Standing Committee Reports

Land Protection Group – The LPG will resume meetings on October 10.

Managed Growth Group – MGG will try for a meeting in October

Water Quality Group – May look at further studies.

Summary/Adjournment

Next meeting date: November 3, 2008

7:00 pm. Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Enz Page