

Strafford Conservation Commission
Minutes
November 3, 2008

Present: Liz Evans Harmony Anderson Cal Schroeder Carolyn Page Jack Bronnenberg
Bruce Smith Dave Perkins

Guests: Scott Young Gail & Ed Kelly David Whitcher Charlie Moreno

Opening and Introductions

The meeting was opened at 7:02 pm.

Special Reports

Other We started the meeting with a request by David Whitcher for the Kellys to replace an existing building with one of the exact height and dimensions. Approved by consensus.

State Conservation Commission Meeting Carolyn reported on this meeting. She attended a field trip followed by a classroom session on Service Learning. Knowing that in the future we will need help in trail building and maintenance in our town forests lands, she hoped to gain insight into enlisting the help of school and other groups. The main lesson learned was to give the group a problem to be solved so that they are part of the solution and can buy into it. She also attended a workshop on Managing Lands for Wildlife Habitat.

MOTION: Cal moved that the \$40.00 registration fee for the meeting attendance be reimbursed by the commission. Seconded by Jack. Approved.

Lakes Management Meeting This meeting at the Waldron Store was attended by Cal, Liz, Bruce and Carolyn. The town will have to prepare a management plan for its lakes in the future. This meeting introduced all the areas that need to be covered and where the information can be obtained. Liz said that it took two years for the Isinglass Committee to complete the plan they did for that river. A subcommittee will have to be formed to get this accomplished for Bow Lake.

Old Business

Activities on new town properties Harmony checked out the meaning of the legal terminology used in the Bedford property paperwork with Dan Kern from Bear-Paw. Snowmobiles can be used on it. She also talked with Bruce Patrick about what will be allowed on the school property. That has yet to be decided by the school board. We have to wait for the management plan for the Isinglass River Conservation Reserve to know what will be allowed there.

Cookies Harmony brought in a large oak cookie from her oak tree. Carolyn will check with Wolfgang Liskow to see if his saw will be able to cut inch and a half slices. If not, we would like to see the slabs he has with bark still on cut into ovals.

Town forest logging operation update There was a discussion on how to pay Charlie for his work on the town forest. Liz will check it out.

Charlie then gave us an update on the happenings in the town forest. The selective cutting is about halfway completed and on time. It is going very well. Deborah Goard, county forester and Phil Auger have been to the forest to check on operations. Deborah will be designing a road that will go farther into the Edgerly Lot. There will be technical services from the NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service). The new road will be in a better position to avoid wet areas and raised up by a rock base to keep it dry. When the road design is completed, the work will be sent out for bids. Charlie is expecting it to be done in late winter to early spring. We have a NRCS grant to cover road work, the pogonia study, wildlife clearings and invasive plants.

The pogonia study covered 30 acres in an intensive search. Eight new populations with 105 individual plants were found. Next year some more of the forest will be searched. Knowing the locations will help with the placement of the road. The populations will be closely watched to see what conditions are most suitable for the plants.

Charlie encouraged the Commission to make awareness of invasive species a priority. Bittersweet is choking out the forests to the south of us. If we are vigilant, we could keep ahead of the invasion of bittersweet, autumn olive, honeysuckle, and the many others.

Lastly, Charlie invited us to come walk in the forest. We will meet there at 2:30 on November 19. Wear your hunter orange.

NROC new grant? Postponed. We did not get the grant from the NH Estuaries Project. We are still waiting to hear about the Moose Plate grant.

Other Bruce brought in the signs requested at the last meeting. These signs can only be used for lands that are open for sportsmen.

New Business

There will be a program at the Waldron Store about Conservation Options and Estate Planning on Monday, November 17, 7-9 pm. Please register at deb.stevens@unh.edu or info@bear-paw.org. 436-9400. Cal will bring 2 ciders, Harmony and Carolyn will bring cookies.

Standing Committee Reports

Land Protection Group – Carolyn distributed a copy of the letter and enclosure that the group will be sending out to about 65 land owners who have shown interest in the past about putting their land in a conservation easement and new folks who about the lands newly acquired.

Managed Growth Group – nothing

Water Quality Group – nothing

Summary/Adjournment

Next meeting date: December 1 7:00 pm. Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Enz Page