

**Strafford Conservation Commission
Minutes
July 11, 2011**

Present: Liz Evans Harmony Anderson Carolyn Page Dave Perkins Scott A. Young
Kerry Omand Bruce Smith Irving Johnson

Guests: Bob Edmonds Bryn Dustin Matthew Dustin Steve Leighton Charlie Moreno JB Cullen

Opening and Introductions

The meeting was opened at 7:04 pm. A motion was made by Liz and seconded by Scott to accept the July 2011 **minutes**. Approved.

Guest Presentations

Eagle Project proposal Matthew Dustin presented ideas for his eagle project. He originally said that he wanted to work with the eroded trails on Parker Mountain. We all thought that was too big a project and that he should concentrate on the Spencer Smith Trail that goes straight up to the top. It is in need of major restoration. Carolyn suggested that he contact Bill Shearer, NH Trails Chair for the AMC. Matt will have a finalized proposal to us by September. We found out later in the meeting that JB Cullen wrote a book on trail building that may be of benefit. He will get a copy to Matt.

DES application none

Old Business

Town Forest:

Bridge Update Charlie brought us a bid on the Town Forest bridge. The bid was more than twice the amount of money called for in the grant. Charlie will ask Natural Resources Conservation Service about what the repercussions are of canceling the project. We will also go outside the town to see if there are contractors who can submit lower bids. Charlie will try to find out which contractors have previously built bridges for the NRCS.

Mowing It's being done.

IRCR:

Trail Committee Report The first full meeting of the trail committee met on June 28 to do a preliminary walk on one of the trails in the Isinglass River Conservation Reserve. The walk started on the Bedford track and wound to a lookout over the marshy meadows of the two new (yet to be named) properties and back out to the lane. Two bridges will be needed to cross a stream. The group is awaiting the call to bring loppers and chain saws to do the trail building. Dave and Phil Auger did the flagging on this trail and the one leading from the parking lot.

Parking Lot Bids Charlie Moreno distributed the specs for the parking lot (attached) and gave us the contractor bids. It was decided that the stumps of the trees had to come out and that the tops of the trees would be chipped and stored to be used as a trail base where needed. The bids were opened and discussed.

MOTION: Liz made a motion to choose the lowest bidder. Seconded by Dave. Approved.
The project goes to Steve Leighton whose bid was much lower than the others because he is donating the gravel for the project. The donation is greatly appreciated. The work will be completed during this building season.

There was also a bid on the brontosaurus work that needs to be done to rid an area of invasives. That bid is put on hold.

Financial Considerations Liz will try to get confirmation on funding from the grant. Harmony will get approval for the project from Bear-Paw, and Liz and Charlie will work on the wetland permits.

Other Bob Edmonds and JB Cullen updated us on their educational trail plans that show evidence of our cultural and historical past. They are ready to go as soon as they get word from the Moose Grant officials. They will be mainly using existing trails that hook together the mills and cemetery. They have signs ready for printing and will call together a group to do the trail clean-up soon. Liz will call the Moose Plate people to try to expedite the grant money. The Commission will do a site walk before work starts.

Evans Mountain:

Conservation Easement details, approval Dan Kern is still working on easement wording. Kerry wanted to make sure the snowmobile trail is mentioned in the reserved rights of the deed. Our other concerns were about the preservation of camping on the ledges, a practice of the boy scouts for decades.

Celebration Committee Report The committee met on June 20. The date of the celebration is set for October 15 from noon to 3 p.m. either on Evans Mountain or at the Foss Camp Recreation Building on Evans Mt. There will be food, speeches and hikes to the views. The next meeting is scheduled for July 12 at 4:30.

40-foot dock proposal update The state permitted the dock.

New Business none

Standing Committee Reports

Trails Committee - above

Managed Growth Group – no news

Summary/Adjournment

Next meeting date: Monday, August 1, 2011

7:00 pm. Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Enz Page