

Strafford Conservation Commission
Minutes
July 12, 2010

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

Guests: Chris Schadler

Opening and Introductions

The meeting was opened at 7:11 pm. **Minutes** from June 2010 were approved by consensus. Chris Schadler, our local wild canid expert was introduced.

Conservation fund update: Harmony said that some money may be coming in from land use change tax soon. Liz had no further information on this, but will check.

Guest Presentations

Chris Schadler: Since the recent news articles about the coyote carrying a Pomeranian off in its mouth, Chris thought it would be a good idea to hold a public forum to discuss how to deal with coyotes. We agreed and thought August 12 at 7:00 at the library might work. Harmony will check with Ken to see if the library is available. She will also write about this in the conservation column in the Community Calendar. Chris will put together a poster and put them up around town.

DES application none

Old Business

Fire Station parking lot application: Harmony read a draft of a letter to be sent to the Department of Environmental Services. She will get letters from the Historical Society and the Bow Lake Baptist Church to accompany our letter. Liz will work up the final wording and have it in the mail by the end of the week.

Town Forest

Bridge: Most commissioners agreed that we should go ahead with this project with two alternate commissioners having reservations. Liz signed the forms to okay the project.

Mowing: The Forest field has been mowed. George Kitz will continue to do this and mow among the trees on the upper portion once a year. Liz will see to payments.

IRCR (Isinglass River Conservation Reserve)

Parking Lot: Harmony is working on grant sources to pay for the work needed to build a parking lot off of New Bow Lake Road. The Moose Plate grant is due October 1, Recreational Trails Grant is done for this year, and the Field and Pond grant is on-going. We agreed that the parking lot needed to be done - or at least underway- before we start the trail work.

Trail Construction: Carolyn contacted the Trails Chair of the New Hampshire Appalachian Mountain Club, Bill Darcy, to ask for advice and help in making our trails. He said to add trails gradually. They are harder and take longer to maintain than to build them in the first place. He suggests finding folks who are interested in doing this kind of work and get them organized first. At that point, Bill would be happy to meet with this committee on the property to study the maps, walk

the proposed trails and plan the work day. Then he can schedule it as a town and AMC event at which everyone will learn to build the trail. He said that's the slow way to get it done. The fast way is to hire AMC seasonal trail crew in the fall for as many days as needed. But again he cautions that we should have the maintainers lined up first. Harmony will ask for volunteers in her column.

Evans Mountain

Fundraising: The flamingo flocking is going well. We've made \$2,500.00 so far. A breakfast is scheduled for October 2 to get some larger donations from deeper pockets.

Caretaking Issues: Jack Bronnenberg put large rocks in the roadways to block them, but they have already been moved out of the way. Several suggestions were discussed. The decision was made to get better signage up there. First, it is unclear where the Class 6 Evans Mountain Road goes. The logging road looks more like the main road than the actual one. A sign saying "Evan Mountain Road to Bow Lake" with an arrow may help - along with a sign on the logging road saying "Private Road Conservation Area". We will eventually need gates.

Other: The Snowmobile Club has received the grant for gates on the IRCR.

New Business

Butternut Restoration Project: Cal sent an appeal from this organization for sitings of butternut trees over 10 inches in diameter. The tree is being wiped out by a canker and they are looking for trees naturally resistant so they can use scions for grafting. Harmony will mention this in her column. Carolyn will have the writer for the Big Tree Program use this as her topic for the next publication.

Bridge Construction/Brownell easement question: The bridge replacement on Northwood Road crossing the Buzzell Run River will be much larger than expected. The Brownells were concerned because their conservation land is involved. The work can be done without encroaching on their land.

Standing Committee Reports

Land Protection Group – Flocking flamingos

Managed Growth Group – meeting

Water Quality Group – Carolyn invited the commissioners to the August 2nd Garden Club meeting at 2:00 at the Grange Hall in Bow Lake Village where Kathy Steinmuller will speak about the NH Lakes Lay Monitoring Program and the 2009 Bow Lake Water Quality Report. Refreshments are served.

Summary/Adjournment

Next meeting date: Monday,

7:00 pm. Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Enz Page