

Strafford Conservation Commission
Minutes
September 12, 2011

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

Guests: Bryan Dustin Matthew Dustin Phil Auger George Lovejoy

Opening and Introductions

The meeting was opened at 7:05 pm. We reintroduced ourselves to the Dustins. The date on the August first minutes was amended from February 7. A motion was made by Dave and seconded by Scott to accept the August 1 **minutes** as amended. Approved. A motion was made by Scott and seconded by Kerry to accept the August 22 minutes. Approved.

Guest Presentations

Matthew Dustin, who wants to do his Eagle Scout project on Parker Mountain, reported that he and his dad walked the Spencer Smith trail with Bill Darcy, NH trail master for the Appalachian Mountain Club. It was determined that 17 new water bars are needed and ten old ones are in need of repair. Matthew also wants to build a kiosk to be placed at the foot of the trail for maps and an explanation of hiker etiquette.

Matthew suggested that once the trail improvements are completed, that we involve the town in the maintenance with scheduled works days twice a year. One could be in November after the leaves have fallen and one could be in May after snowmelt. He suggested an “adopt a water bar” approach. He hoped that we would help buy specialized tools for the trail building and maintenance. He distributed a six-page report detailing the project.

Matthew asked for our approval of the project and a signature for his application. He asked permission to cut hemlocks for the water bars.

MOTION: Carolyn moved that permission be granted for Matthew to go ahead with his project and cut needed hemlocks. Dave seconded. Approved

(Mike Burns is the Boy Scout contact in Strafford if we need help in trail work.)

DES application none

Old Business

Evans Mountain

Completed survey: Phil Auger and George Lovejoy joined us with the final map of the Evans Mountain division. The two plus Liz walked the line and discovered that the survey line was within sight of old stone walls. It made sense to move the survey line to coincide with the walls. The acreage is now split 502.28 acres to Blue Hills and 467.78 to the town of Strafford. Along with the 54 acres of the McCabe lot, which will be joined to the Evans Mt.

property, the piece will be 521.78 acres. This survey will be taken to the Planning Board on October 6 and abutters notified.

Conservation Easement: Phil distributed a revised copy of the easement. Pages 4, 5 and 6 have some clarifications added by Bear-Paw. The top of page 8 specifically mentions the rights of snowmobilers to maintain their trails. Harmony discovered a typo on page 8 with 3 headings listed as "D".

MOTION: Kerry made a motion to approve the September 12 draft of the Evans Mountain Easement with the amended lettering. Carolyn seconded. Approved.

IRCR:

Trail Committee Report: Phil and Dave have been doing most of the work with some assistance from Joe Ciccarelli. The rest of the committee has not been showing up. The trails are mainly brushed out at this point. Lumber is now needed for the bridges. Liz said that Phil can be reimbursed from the rollover fund then that fund can be reimbursed from the town. Kerry will ask the snowmobile club if they have any funds to contribute.

Parking Lot Work Begun: Steve Leighton has begun work on the Isinglass River Conservation Reserve parking lot!

Town Forest:

Bridge: no news

Mowing: Last year's (2010) payment has been made.

New Business none

Standing Committee Reports none

Summary/Adjournment

Next meeting date: Monday, October 3 7:00 pm. Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Enz Page