

**Strafford Conservation Commission
Minutes
December 16, 2009**

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

Guests: Phil Auger Ellen Snyder Town Citizens

Opening and Introductions

The meeting was opened at 7:04 pm.

Public Hearing re: Use of Conservation Funds toward conservation of 1000 acre tract.

Phil Auger gave a power point presentation to the assembled group on the anticipated purchase of the 1015 acre Evans Mountain property. He said that with this purchase we will have achieved preserving 90% of the Parker-Evans Mountain ridge line or approximately 3 miles of unfragmented wildlife habitat. He told of how the project will be financed and the organizations from whom we hope to get funded. Don Black and Bob Perry spoke in favor of the plan. Phil answered the questions from others in the group.

MOTION: Dave made a motion to contribute \$150,000.00 from the Conservation Fund to Bear-Paw Regional Greenways to go toward the Evans Mountain project. Seconded by Harmony. Unanimous approval.

Conservation Commission December meeting

Approval of November minutes

A motion was made and seconded by Harmony to accept the November 2009 **minutes**. Approved.

Guest Presentations

Tyler Martel - Kiosk project update - not present

Ellen Snyder - Isinglass properties stewardship plan update

We finalized the space off of New Bow Lake Road for parking and a trail head for the Isinglass River Conservation Reserve. This will be the location of the information kiosk as well. The trail will be for hiking, biking and horse back riding. Equipment needed for woods management will access the property from Pig Lane. Ellen will incorporate into the plan the gates and bridges offered by the Snowmobile Club in previous meetings. All agreed that the properties will be open to all with the exception of motorized, wheeled vehicles. Other restrictions for the use of the property included no camping, and open fires by permit only.

Ellen wanted to know if we wanted a kiosk at the other end of the property and other access points. We asked her to write it into the plans as something we may consider in the future.

The question came up about what we wanted to call the former Boulders property to distinguish it from the other properties that will be part of the Reserve. We will use the IRCR as the umbrella title for the all the tracts of preserved land in the area. There was some opposition to the "Pig Lane Tract".

Old Business

Liz needed our approval to pay \$10,280 for the woods road in the town forest, the money coming from the USDA Cost Share. Approved by consensus.

Harmony will call C&K Printing to see if they will do a paper mock-up of the sign we will need for the kiosk.

Harmony announced that the Pike Conservation Project closed this past Monday. This required only \$2200 from us with the remainder being picked up by Rochester.

Other Bob Edmonds and J.B. Cullen did not get the grant to do the project for the IRCR, but they were asked to resubmit it for the next round of funding.

New Business The year end report for the commission needs to be written. Harmony will start it with input from Liz.

Standing Committee Reports**Land Protection Group –**

Managed Growth Group – The group will put out a new survey to see how the town citizens feel about preserving agricultural land.

Water Quality Group –**Summary/Adjournment**

Next meeting date: Monday, January 4, 2010 7:00 pm. Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Enz Page