

Stafford Conservation Commission
Minutes
November 2, 2009

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

Guests: Mark West Don Clifford

Opening and Introductions

The meeting was opened at 7:08 pm. A motion was made by Scott and seconded by Dave to accept the October 2009 **minutes**. Approved.

Guest Presentations

Don Clifford - Don was representing the snowmobile club. They are concerned with the ATVs that have moved the rocks blocking Pig Lane and made a path around the log at the other end. He proposed that the snowmobile club pay for and install a locked gate at either end. He said that others, where installed, worked to keep wheeled vehicles out. The gates are open for the snow season and relocked afterwards. We asked him to talk to Phil to make sure there weren't any restrictions, but we generally felt that a gate is a good idea. The stewardship management plan group will need to be advised of this.

The commissioners also felt it was okay for the snowmobiles to use existing trails on the Isinglass property as dead ends. Since it is too late to build a bridge across a Bedford wet area discussed at an earlier meeting, Don told about a removable culvert that works successfully in other streams. Again, the general feeling was of approval. A culvert would be better than the sticks that cross the area now. Don was invited to the December meeting to discuss these matters further.

Mark West - Bear-Paw Board Chair, Regional Conservation Plan - Mark distributed maps and data from the Stafford portion of the Bear-Paw Regional Conservation Plan. This is a co-occurrence map showing the most important areas to save for plants and wildlife. A full copy of the report will be at the Hill Library.

DES application - Liz had a Dredge and fill application from the developers of some property off of the Back Canaan Road. A wetlands permit is needed.

Old Business

IRCR Sign Plans/construction - A sign design was chosen. We will use wording similar to that used in the Ocean County sign sample. Harmony will get logos for some of our partners from Dan Kern. Liz will get the remainder from Gregg Caparossi. Harmony will check prices at AMI, C&K and TKO for signs about 18 by 24 inches. Harmony will email the commissioners with the results of her findings.

IRCR Stewardship plan news - Scott reported that Shane Csiki, a fluvial geomorphology specialist, has the 17 miles of the Isinglass divided into reaches three of which are in Stafford. He confirmed a third branch of the river on the second reach that has a road/path across it with an

undersized culvert causing the road to erode into the stream bed and generally restricting the flow of water down that branch. One end of this branch, shown on some maps as a tributary, reenters the main river near the Dupee property. Mr. Csiki says that the river is "threading", a unique thing for a river to do in this type of terrain.

Scott said that Ellen who is doing the Stewardship Plan for the IRCR has contracted Dan Sperduto to map the plant communities. We agreed that there should be a walking trail vs. a road from the parking lot to the main trails of the reserve.

New Business

Conservation Fund details - Dan had a printout of our balance in the conservation fund. He feels that this is public knowledge and that he shouldn't have needed special permission to get it. Dan also brought up complaints about too many lights brightening the Strafford night skies.

Standing Committee Reports

Land Protection Group – none

Managed Growth Group – meeting Nov. 10

Water Quality Group – none

Summary/Adjournment

Next meeting date: Monday, December 7, 2009 7:00 pm. Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Enz Page