

Strafford Conservation Commission
Minutes
May 3, 2010

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

Guests: Phil Auger Rick Hodges

Opening and Introductions

The meeting was opened at 7:05 pm. The April 2010 **minutes** were approved by consensus.

To end the on-going discussion about which alternate to choose to have the vote in case a quorum was not present, it was decided that the choice would be made by having the alternates present draw straws.

Guest Presentations

Phil Auger - Evans Mountain Road situation: Phil told of a major problem with the road during the last heavy rains. He said that the fill which used to be the road bed wound up in the creek bed at the bottom of the hill exposing ledge. Eric Rowe had some of the ledge blasted and did some major dredging to make the road passable again. Phil pointed out that there is no town policy for people on Class Six roads to follow in such cases.

There has been a lot of ATV use on the property. Kerry added that ATV users unload the vehicles by the cemetery and leave from there. He said that he had signs that show "No wheeled vehicles" that he can donate. We also thought that the logs that were left by the last owners could be used to block some of the major routes. We will ask Jack Bronnenberg if he can use his equipment to do this, or if he knows of anyone who could.

A work party was organized to post the signs after the Bear-Paw Evans Mt. bird walk from 7-9 a.m. on Sunday, May 16th. For those not attending the bird walk, meet at the cemetery at 9:00. Kerry will get the signs to Dave.

Phil reminded us of the Biothon on Evans Mt. on June 19. There will be three teams of experts to do the species count, but he needs volunteers to write. He was wondering how we could make some money from this. Usually people contribute a certain amount per species found. There will be a picnic for contributors and the teams at Phil's Beach afterward.

There will be a film made of the history of the property, hopefully, including interviews with Roger Leighton and George Lovejoy.

Harmony told about the committee formed to raise the \$100,000.00 needed to pay for the property. One of the means is to get the town involved by having folks pay \$25.00 to have a flock of pink flamingos placed on someone's lawn for 24 hours. Hopefully, it will become a status symbol to have your lawn "flocked". A sign will go along with the flock to explain the fund raiser. To kick off the campaign, a float of the flamingos stuck in hay bales on a flatbed trailer will be in the Memorial Day Parade.

DES application: Liz had a notice that culverts on Lakeshore Drive are being replaced.

Other Rick Hodges came to the meeting out of interest.

Old Business

IRCR - Parking lot construction plans, bids, money: The Commission met to set the boundaries of the parking lot last month. We asked Rick if he would take a look at it and help us with pricing the job. Phil said there may be some small grant sources we could apply for public access. ISTEA is for alternative traffic (foot, bike, etc.) and also Fields and Ponds could be a source.

Liz sent a picture of the sign for the IRCR to the appropriate officials. She and Harmony showed the sign made by C&K Printing to the group.

Phil said that the smaller properties that we are acquiring abutting the IRCR should be settled by this summer.

Town Forest Bridge: We were asked if we should have Charlie Moreno put the project out for bid. The vote was "yes" by consensus.

Conservation Camp - Barry Conservation Camp closed this year. There will be no scholarship opportunity this year. Harmony did have some information on a Conservation Leadership Camp, but it cost more than three times what we were paying. She will let us know if other opportunities come up.

Other: Kerry said that Don Clifford or the Snow Mobile Club has applied for grants to get gates for the IRCR. They are also reinstalling the railing on the bridge this weekend. He described a very sturdy structure. He will ask their corresponding secretary to put an article in the Strafford Community Calendar about the cost of vandalism in town.

New Business

Other: Al reported that the Spencer Smith Trail Parking Lot was washed out. There is a trench down the middle of it. This parking lot is on state land. Al will call the state to see if they can fix it. Rick volunteered to clean out the culverts on the trail that are causing the overflow. He said it would be best if he can get some equipment in there to do it properly.

Scott said the Bennett Island eagles (a new pair) have hatched one chick so far. This is a first for the town.

Standing Committee Reports

Land Protection Group – The group will be contacted to work on the fund raising.

Managed Growth Group – Harmony reported on the survey. She said most were in favor of the concept of saving Agricultural land. The Planning Board will be meeting on the topic.

Water Quality Group – no news

Summary/Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Enz Page