

Strafford Conservation Commission
Minutes
January 4, 2010

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

Guests: George Lovejoy Phil Auger Paul Eaton Charlie Moreno

Opening and Introductions

The meeting was opened at 7:00 pm. Carolyn questioned whether last month's approval of the minutes included both the November 2 and November 24. A motion was made by Scott and seconded by Harmony to accept both sets of the November 2009 **minutes**. Approved. Scott made a motion to approve the December 16 minutes. Seconded by Harmony. Approved.

Introductions were exchanged with George Lovejoy of the Blue Hills Foundation.

Guest Presentations

George Lovejoy, Phil Auger - Evans Mountain Project update: Phil said that all the documents for the ownership of Evans Mountain have been drafted. The deeds will include the Blue Hills Foundation, Bear-Paw and the Town of Strafford as executory interest holder. The town attorney now has to give approval. The conveyance of the deed will be on January 21. The second step in the process will be to decide how to split the ownership among the three parties mentioned. We need to be thinking how that will happen. All will depend on the funding that comes though. Grant requests have been submitted to ARM, LChip and OSI. It should take anywhere from 12 to 18 months to settle the project.

George told us of the three main purposes of the Blue Hills Foundation. First and foremost is the protection of the land. The second is to fulfill his dream to tie together the high ground between Blue Job and the Adams Pond Boy Scout Camp. And lastly for the Blue Hills Foundation to be a good neighbor to the people of the town. All of the lands are open to the public for hiking, hunting, and fishing. He is having a study conducted with a professor of forest ecology at Harvard on some of his lands to determine if a forest is better for being managed or left on its own to grow wild. He recently had a study done at the Willey Ponds which are glacial lakes. A core of sixteen feet of sediment has been taken from the bottom of one of the ponds and is being analyzed. The results will be available on the Internet when completed.

Other Charlie Moreno, town forester, and Paul Eaton, town Planning Board member dropped by to show their support of the Evans Mountain Project.

Old Business

IRCR sign plans: Harmony is getting the logos for the sign via email so she can transfer them to the printer. She will take all of the sign components to C&K Printing as soon as possible.

IRCR/Bedford properties name discussion: All agreed that the name encompassing all of the property easements along the Isinglass River should be known as the Isinglass River Conservation Reserve. But because of the need to refer to the different pieces separately, each tract will have its own name as in the Bedford Tract. The decision about what to call the large tract that the town bought with the help of Trust for Public Lands came down to two choices. Liz, in a letter to the commission, did some research to find that the property was referred to as the Nathan Hanson Farm throughout many old deeds. While the project was underway, it was referred to as the Pig Lane Project. After animated discussion, the vote came out to be three in favor of the name "Pig Lane Tract" vs two for the name "Hanson Tract".

DES applications: none

New Business

Bill payment approvals:

Organization memberships: It is time for our year-end payment of dues to the organizations with which we work closely:

MOTION: Carolyn made a motion to pay two hundred dollars to Bear-Paw Regional Greenways. Seconded by Scott. Approved. We have gotten more than our money's worth from this organization which has brought in thousands of dollars in grants to help with conservation easements.

MOTION: Dave made a motion to pay twenty-five dollars each to the Friends of the Suncook River and the Cochecho River Watershed Coalition. Seconded by Dan. Approved. We have given fifty dollars in the past to the Cochecho River group, but our budget was cut at the last town meeting.

Mowing bill: George Kitz will submit a bill of approximately \$200.00 for mowing the field and grove of the town forest.

Standing Committee Reports

Land Protection Group – There is no money for mailings and no money for adding new properties. Perhaps the group should be disbanded.

Managed Growth Group – Meeting next Tuesday about saving agricultural land.

Water Quality Group –

Summary/Adjournment

Next meeting date: Monday, February 1

7:00 pm. Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Enz Page