

Strafford Conservation Commission
Minutes
April 5, 2010

Present: Harmony Anderson, Dave Perkins, Scott Young, Dan Phelan, and Irving Johnson.

Guest: Phil Auger

Opening and Introductions:

The meeting was opened at 7:10 pm. The minutes of the March 2010 were approved. Dave volunteered to take minutes. Harmony will type them and send them by e-mail. Four regular members constituted a quorum, but when asked, Phil Auger reported that Strafford Planning Board and other municipal board meetings he has attended regularly accord alternates in attendance voting status when the full board is not present. Following that precedent, Irving was given voting status for the meeting. The question of whether such decisions would be made by chair appointment or by lot in the future was left for a later meeting.

Guest Presentations:

There were no DES applications to review.

Phil Auger discussed the need for an environmental/wetland survey and detailed report of the Evans Mountain property to be made very soon as it will be necessary supporting information for the grant applications to acquire the \$500,000 we need to pay the loans and expenses remaining to complete the project. The members had in hand West Environmental's proposal to do the work for \$5000. (Details of the work in the attached document) Phil reported that Hooksett had gotten bids from others for the Clay Pond Project but chose West Environmental which provided the most economical bid. Mark West's report was part of the grant proposal that won Hooksett a several hundred thousand dollar grant from the Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) fund. Dave moved that we approve spending up to \$5000 for West Environmental to do the survey, Harmony seconded it. Discussion centered around just how much money is left in our accounts and the need to have enough left to pay for the IRCR parking lot. Members approved accepting the West proposal but felt we needed final assurance from Liz about money in the proper accounts available. Dan suggested e-mail communication with a 48-hour deadline so we could allow other members in on the process, get the financial assurances, make our final approval and the work can begin quickly.

Phil also reported that on the several Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) projects in town surveying is nearly complete with easement expenses covered with WRP. Five of these are in the IRCR area and another in the Spruce Pond area.

Old Business:

Harmony brought the two IRCR printed and laminated signs to the meeting. One will be installed in the trailhead kiosk when the IRCR parking lot is completed. We discussed the need for a specific plan for the parking lot. Dan suggested that he and Dave meet to create the plan before the May meeting. Dave agreed.

We had no further news about the Town Forest bridge construction. We will talk to Charlie about it before the May meeting.

New Business:

Harmony reported that a parent had asked about the Conservation Camp scholarship we had offered in previous years. The members all supported offering it again. Harmony will advertize it in the Strafford Community Calendar and it can also be publicized in the Friday Notes from the school. Applicants will have to submit an essay about why they hope to go and what they hope to learn there. Dan asked that they also come to a Commission meeting and report about the experience.

Standing Committee Reports:

Harmony mentioned the need for a Strafford committee to work on private fundraising for the Evans Mountain project, and that Land Protection Committee members could have a role in this. Phil mentioned getting the Bow Lake Camp Owners involved. He would be glad to present his Evans Mountain Power Point to them at a meeting. Harmony will call past BLCO president Ed Cournoyer to find out about their meetings. She also reported that the Managed Growth Committee will meet on Tuesday, April 13th to tabulate the results of the Protecting Agricultural Land survey.

Summary/ Adjournment

The next meeting date: Monday, May 3, 2010 7:00 pm. Town Hall