

**Strafford Conservation Commission**  
**Minutes**  
**March 5, 2012**

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

Guests: Phil Auger Dan Kern Mark West

**Opening and Introductions**

The meeting was opened at 7:05 pm. A motion was made by Dave and seconded by Harmony to accept the February 2012 **minutes**. Approved.

**Guest Presentations**

**Boy Scout Kevin Chadwick – Town Forest proposal:** Harmony relayed the proposal from Kevin to the Commission to clear brush from the stone wall between the Town Forest and the George Kitz property. Kevin needs these volunteer hours for his Community Service. We generally approved of the project which will be supervised by Mr. Kitz. Liz will check about insurance and the rest of us will check out the site. We agreed that trees and brush less than 4 inches in diameter may be removed. Phil offered to flag trees we want saved.

**Mark West:** Some invasives were found on the Eliasberg and King lots of the IRCR (Isinglass River Conservation Reserve). Since there are just a few sites where purple loosestrife, multiflora rose and barberry are growing, removal could be done by volunteers. The plan must be approved by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Brook Smart of the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) needs to be notified. There is money set aside by DES for this effort and volunteer time is chargeable, payable to the Commission.

Mark then distributed a handout on Wetland Restoration Sites for the Evans Mountain property along with maps indicating the sites (attached). Failed culverts need to be replaced, erosion checked, debris removed and a wetland crossing to be constructed. Bear-Paw has the responsibility to see this project is completed. DES has funds for reimbursement. Mark will do the application for the town, find suitable contractors and supervise the project. We asked that local workers be used as much as possible. We will send a list of contractors to Dan. Work will be done through this summer and finished by the end of the year.

**Phil Auger:** Phil presented a bridge plan for the wetland crossing (above) that has been successfully used at a different site.

**Dan Kern:** Dan Kern presented the Base Line Report showing the condition of the Evans Mountain property at the time we signed the papers. This report contains deeds, maps, tax map, surveys, photos, reports and the stewardship plan. He also presented two checks for reimbursement of funds used for the appraisal and West Environmental. Next he told us that some excess funds from the Evans Mountain property will be used to study, layout and engineer a trail linking the Spencer Smith Trail on Parker Mountain with the peaks on Evans Mountain. We were all surprised and pleased. MOTION: Dave made a motion that the Conservation Commission accept the offer from Bear-Paw to plan the trail on Evans Mountain. Harmony seconded the motion. All approved.

**DES application – Follow-up from previous site walk:**

Liz read a letter from the state that addressed the concerns we had about the site that we visited last month. Carolyn suggested a short letter of “thanks” for the cooperation in dealing with local matters and our willingness to help with the proceedings.

**Other** Scott told us of a state-wide, five-year study of dragon flies. The state has 158 species, 102 of them are found in Strafford (Scott found 100 of them). Some that are threatened in other states are doing well here including the Ringed Bog Hunter. Scott also found some rare plants in the Spruce Pond Bog.

**Old Business**

**Evans Mountain** (see above)

**IRCR** (see above)

**Town Forest:** There is no word on the bridge.

**Leopold Bench project:** Cal thought it best to wait until fall for this project.

**Warrant Article:** This is an article asking that the town’s executory interest in the Evans Mountain property be dropped. This is no longer needed since the town now owns its section of the property. Since the warrant was written by lawyers, Phil has volunteered to help Steve Leighton explain it at Town Meeting

**Conservation Board positions:** Harmony asked for some suggestion of names of people who might be interested in the vacant position. She will call to invite them to our next meeting.

**New Business**

Liz recommended that the Bear-Paw checks from Dan be placed in the Rollover Fund ear marked for use on Evans Mountain. All agreed.

**Standing Committee Reports**

**Trails Committee** – Phil is planning a workday on the IRCR to clear slash and build a trail from the parking lot to the trail head at the end of the cleared area.

**Summary/Adjournment** Harmony made a motion to adjourn. Carolyn seconded.

Next meeting date: Monday, April 2, 7:00 pm. Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Enz Page