

**Strafford Conservation Commission**  
**Minutes**  
**August 4, 2008**

Present: Liz Evans Harmony Anderson Cal Schroeder Carolyn Page Al Pratt  
Bruce Smith

Guests: Phil Auger Dan Kern Irene Abels

**1. Opening and Introductions**

The meeting was opened at 7:07 pm. A motion was made by Al and seconded by Cal to accept the June 2008 **minutes**. Approved. A second motion was made by Al and seconded by Cal to accept the July 2008 minutes. Approved.

**2. Guest Presentations**

Phil Auger came to discuss plans for the town party to celebrate the signing for the Isinglass River Conservation Reserve. The Trust for Public Lands, the group paying for the event, wants it to be before Labor Day or in the spring. Senator Judd Gregg is available on the 28<sup>th</sup> of August. By consensus we decided on Thursday the 28<sup>th</sup> starting at about 3:00 p.m. There will be a major press release, notices will be at the post office, and on the outside notice boards at the library, and school. Since it is too late to get it into the town Calendar, members were asked to pass the information around by emails.

Phil's next item was considering the mandated management plans for the Bedford and King properties and IRCR. In addition to wildlife and forest management, the plan will also include layouts of paths, parking lots and kiosks with maps and signs. The total cost may be as much as \$15,000.00. Phil is applying for grants to cover the costs. He needs to show the amount the town is willing to expend toward this project. We will also need volunteer time toward a match.

MOTION: Harmony made a motion to commit up to \$4,000.00 toward the management plan, parking, signage, and possible gates. Al seconded the motion. Approved with one opposed.

Dan Kern from Bear-Paw Regional Greenways presented the final cost sheets for the Cooper and Cournoyer properties. Dan got two \$3,000.00 grants toward these costs.

MOTION: Cal moved that we cover the final transaction costs of these two properties. Seconded by Carolyn. Approved.

Dan also presented an estimated transaction cost sheet for another possible conservation easement containing prime farm soils in the vicinity of other conserved lands. The transaction costs may be covered, but if they are not we would need to do that.

MOTION: Al moved to proceed with this project and to cover the costs if needed. Seconded and approved.

**DES application** none

**3. Old Business**

The Town Forest logging road's entrance onto route 126 (Parker Mountain Road) needs to be changed to provide adequate line of sight for vehicles entering and exiting the forest. From the Department of Transportation, we had a proposal to use the entrance currently in place in the field by the monument and to run the road parallel to rt. 126 to the landing site. It was also proposed that this road be graveled to prevent deep ruts from the logging trucks.

MOTION: Cal moved that we approve of a gravel road through the field into the staging area in the town forest. Carolyn seconded. Approved with one opposed.

We would like to know who is building the road and how it will be paid. Liz said that we would have to pay then be reimbursed from the Wildlife Habitation Incentives Program (WHIP). Cal suggested we could use the Storer Forest money.

Harmony read two letters that will be sent out after some editing to some people who might not be aware of wetlands protection laws.

Cal wanted to know if we could have the commemorative plaques ready for the IRCR party. Bruce will come up with the wording. Carolyn will talk to the wood suppliers and LaserKraft.

#### **4. New Business**

Harmony presented a Conservation Plan for the Bear-Paw region. It contains good references and maps. She will put the Town copy in the Hill Library.

#### **6. Summary/Adjournment**

Next meeting date: September 8 7:00 pm. Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Enz Page