

Nash Stream Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting

November 29, 2023, North Country Resource Center 5:30 P.M.

Nash Stream Citizens Advisory Committee **(NSFCC)**

Nash Stream Forest (NSF)

NSFCC members present:

Albert Cloutier, Dave Govatski, David Scanlan, Norman Cloutier, Sally Manikian, Jamie Sayen, Susan Wentworth, Elizabeth Bell

NSFCC members not present:

Michael Waddell, Scott Mason, Timothy Emperor, Kevin Evans, Sarah Stewart

Staff members present:

Maggie Machinist, Will Guinn, Clint Savage, Patrick Hackley, Todd Caron, Adrian Reyes, Keri Yankus

1. Introductions @ 5:30

Dave Govatski welcomes and starts the meeting

2. Timber harvests, road maintenance updates - Maggie Machinist

- Compartment 6 timber sale was active during last year's meeting and was completed in early winter of last year.
- Most of the Nash Stream Road was mowed as well as 14 ½ Road (Trio Pond).
- Nash Stream Road and 14 ½ Road were graded
- Approximately 2 miles of road were re-ditched, 9 culverts were replaced, and 10 new ones installed.
- A section of the East Branch Road was upgraded to accommodate an upcoming timber sale.
- Westside bridge was re-decked as well as the bridge over Farrer Brook.
- Compartment 1 timber sale has started and will continue throughout the winter
- Compartment 18 timber sale was put out to bid but will most likely be operated next winter and is group selection and thinning.
- Jamie Sayen asked Maggie how big the groups are. Most are under two acres, but size varies depending on stand types.
- Bordeau Trail was closed early due to the timber sale on the Westside of Nash Stream in compartment 1.

-The Nash Stream Road from the Westside Bridge north will be open for snowmobiles this winter and there will be a very short section of shared use with log trucks on the Westside Road.

-Dave Govatski asked about insects and disease in Nash Stream. Jamie Sayen questioned why trees get salvaged before letting nature take its course so that they can be studied. Will Guinn explained how the state is working with other agencies to do experiments on state properties.

3. DES Dam Update- Maggie Machinist

-Both Little Bog Pond and Trio Pond dams will be replaced with concrete dams in 2025 with federal dollars.

-The road into Trio Pond will be upgraded to accommodate concrete trucks.

-The owner of the camp directly adjacent to the dam on Trio expressed concern about the bridge on the road as well as the road not being minimally impacted to accommodate concrete trucks.

-Dave Scanlan asked if DES will have a public comment period and Keri Yankus said there will be.

-Another camp owner expressed concern over the dam being constructed of concrete.

-Dave Govatski recommends a traditional alternative or alternative to impacting the road to accommodate a concrete truck. Suggest an alternative mode of transportation, maybe by helicopter or use concrete cofferdams?

-Concern over breeding loons and other ecological impacts.

-Dams are owned by Fish and Game and a representative is needed.

-Camp owner says that no other camp owners are for fixing the road for better access.

-A formal motion by Jamie Sayen and Sally Manikian due to input by the camp owner's association request a pre-design public hearing with DES to consider alternative designs, low impact access, environmental impacts, and working with camp owners.

-Dave Govatski made a motion and Jamie Sayen seconded and all NSFCC members are in favor.

-DNCR will communicate the concerns with DES and Fish and Game.

4. Westside OHRV Trail and Kelsey Notch OHRV Trail season end updates and trail counts - Clinton Savage

-Kelsey Notch Trail monitoring was done twice this year and maintenance has been done by the Metallak ATV Club.

-Westside and Bordeau Trails closed early this year due to the active timber sale.

-Trail counter on Bordeau had an error in 2023

-Corridor B count has gone down slightly over the 3 years the counters have been out.

-Corridor B north has been steady with around 11,000 over the 3 years.

-Corridor C south has been steady with around 4,000.

-Nash Stream Bridge counter off property had an error.

-Dave Govatski asked what the plans were for next year and Clint Savage said that there will be work done on Kelsey Notch Trail and they will use the rock crusher on the Westside Trail.

-Jamie Sayen commented on the Kelsey Notch Trail remaining open after no credible studies have been completed. Also, when the plan was written ATV's were not allowed and nobody wanted them. There is no mention of ATV use in the easement.

-An abutter of the Bordeaux Trail asked when the trail is supposed to close and thought it should be closed on October 1 to allow other uses to enjoy quiet. Clint Savage said that it normally closes on December 15 because it is connected to the North Stratford trail system and that is when their trails close and open for snowmobile season. They have an MOA with the state.

5. Camp Lease Update-Keri Yankus

-Camp owners are required to have the state listed as additionally insured on their policy to be compliant with the lease or it could be terminated.

-There are currently roughly 60 non-compliant camp owners.

-Sally Manikian asked if anybody had thought about some kind of group insurance policy for all the camp owners.

6. Other Business

-There was no other business

7. Public Comment

-Need to have a better way of informing the camp owners about the meetings. Maggie Machinist and Elizabeth Bell will compile a list of camp owners email addresses.

Meeting adjourned motioned by Jamie Sayen and seconded by Dave Scanlan.