Nash Stream Citizens Committee Meeting

November 6, 2013 Lancaster, NH 6:06 – 8:20 P.M.

Nash Stream Forest Citizen's Committee (NSFCC)

NSFCC Members Present:
Ted Burns, Dave Goulet, Norman Cloutier, Albert Cloutier, Wendell Lees, Candy Livingston, Rep. Rebecca Brown, Tom Bushey, Kevin Evans, Steve Sabre, Brad Simpkins, and Mike Waddell.

Committee Member Not present: John Lanier, Fish & Game designee.

Staff Members Present:
Brad Simpkins, John Accardi, Bill Carpenter, Ken Desmarais, Margaret Machinist, Clinton Savage and Sabrina Stanwood.

Public Appearing before the body:
Kelly Butler, Hank Dion, Norman P. Paquette, Leslie Goumillout, Rita Goumillout, Craig Washburn, Bill Noons, Bonnie Ellis, Sam Gaudette and Edith Tucker.

Meeting Opening: Brad Simpkins started the meeting at 6:06 P.M by going over the agenda.

Agenda Items:

1. **Authority, Spirit and Purpose of the Citizens' Committee** -Bill Carpenter. The law RSA 12-A:9-C leads into the Charter.

2. **Update Committee Charter** – Bill Carpenter.

- Ted Burns asked a question that it seemed that a Committee seat was missing. Brad will review RSA language about appointments to the Committee as well as ask previous Director of Forests and Lands, Phil Bryce, about past appointments.
- Representative Rebecca Brown asked how many members there are and how to incorporate other people who want to be involved. Brad stated that 7 of the 13 members have to be from the Nash Stream area.
- Bill Carpenter asked if he can share home addresses, emails and phone number with public.
- Brad went over the some selected state laws that affect the management of state reservations. Oversight of DRED's authority cited in RSA 227 G:1 Statement of Purpose. Payments in lieu of taxes based on zoning (ex. forestry) to municipalities. Nash Stream tax payments determined by Dept of Revenue.
- Rep. Rebecca Brown asked for a copy of the Nash Stream conservation easement which Bill will provide. Maggie Machinist offered copies of the management plan, which Wink Lees commented that the Management Plan would be very helpful for all of the committee members.
- Bill walked committee through charter and asked for comments to be sent to him by the end of next week.
- Edith Tucker commented that there should be a reference to the conservation easement held by the US Government.

- Rebecca Brown said the easement should be cited in decision making paragraphs. She also asked for a clarification of the meaning of consensus, which Dave Goulet explained meant majority rules.

3. **Elect A Chair Person** – Brad Simpkins.

- Committee members need to elect a chairman. He/she has to call a meeting at least once per year. Bill Carpenter read the duties of the committee from the state law and charter.
- Preference given to resident of Great North Woods.
- Steve Sabre asked if meetings need to be posted and publically noticed. Brad said law states that meetings have to have at least a 24 hour notice and can be posted on website, newspaper or town hall as long as it is posted at least 2 different areas. Rita Goumillout stated the Nash Stream website was a year behind. Brad clarified that the meeting was posted on the Division's website, not Nash Stream website.
- Wink Lees asked if public hearings might be required. Brad said yes, and cited the upcoming management plan revisions/update. Wink said there were a series of informational sessions held in the past.
- Brad clarified the number of committee members, 13 committee members with 7 needed for a quorum. If 5 members present, can still have discussion, but no vote. Dave Goulet said that the majority of the 7 doesn't represent full board. Ted Burns commented about the long drive and not want to be on a committee if no quorum present. Also, asked about an alternate designee if committee member can not attend. Brad cited the committees and commissions that he is appointed to and that unless the law says that you can appoint a designee, you can not.
- Steve Sabre asked who should take notes? Department staff to do the notes. Sabrina Stanwood is taking the notes for tonight's meeting.
- Wink Lees nominated John Lanier for a one year term as Committee Chair, seconded by Rebecca Brown, passed unanimously.
- Brad stated the need for the Committee to establish a meeting date, maybe take an email poll for a date that works for everyone in order to ensure a quorum.

Questions from the public:

1. Presentation about ATV west side access to petroleum.
2. RSVPs should be mandatory, so if only get 5 people, no point to have a meeting.
3. When will the minutes will be available? They will be posted on website, www.nhdfl.org, by the end of next week.

4. **Kelsey Notch ATV Trail Update** – Clint Savage (Trails Bureau).

- Trail opened May 23, 2013. A wet spring kept that section of trail closed, but opened 3rd week of June. There has been traffic thru there. Kelsey Notch Trail is approximately 2 miles long on state land.
- Rebecca Brown asked if there is a map that shows snowmobile, ATV and walking trails. Clint responded that there is no public map, but are working on maps with 911 and NH Grand w/ Ride the Wilds. Craig Washburn said 911 map and Ride the Wilds map will be available next spring.

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5. **Management Plan Update** – Ken Desmarais
   - Ken stated that the amount of work that went into the Nash Stream Management Plan and Revision makes it an important resource. It has extensive information and history of Nash Stream.
   - Finished writing the Nash Stream Management Plan in 1995, completed revisions to Plan in 2002.
   - Owned the property for 25 years. Revised plan is 10 years old.
   - Discussed proposal for revisions to management plan and timeline. Ken state that the timeline is ambitious and will be difficult to stick to with current work load.
   - Refer to Nash Stream Management Plan 2014 Revision—See outline.
   - Nash Stream split into approximately 25 compartments which are forest management units.
   - Wink Lees asked when Nash Stream was acquired if there were any intent or vision in state legislation. Ken said that there are the 1995 & 2002 management plans. Wink Lees asked about setting timelines. Ken replied that staff time is a challenge. For example, Maggie Machinist manages over 70,000 acres and 68,000 acres of public easements.
   - Rebecca Brown said that it would be helpful to get everyone out to Nash Stream Citizens Committee. Ken will send out a doodle poll in the third week of November.
   - Edith Tucker asked about equestrians and carriage driving and said that she heard about the interest of carriage drivers in NH, as high end spenders looking for roads. People in VT are doing that.

6. **Forest Management Activities Update** – Maggie Machinist
   - Forest Technician position interviews being conducted now.
   - Presented a Powerpoint of 25 years of Nash Stream Forest.

7. **Other Business**
   - Craig Washburn – Ride the Wilds going well, using town roads. Asked if would be able to use the snowmobile trail near own property and over to private property. Want to get that request out there now. Brad said that will come up in revisions. Clint added comment about connections to Ride the Wilds, as Nash Stream lies in the heart of North Country. There is going to have to be accommodations for ATVs. Berlin-Gorham connection access through Nash Stream.
   - Bonnie Ellis – The camp owners used to help cut blow downs, but only supposed to cut dead trees. Maggie said that patrol personnel are sent to cut blow downs. Brad suggested work with Maggie, but both said if tree down on the ground, it can be cut.

Brad adjourned meeting at 8:20 P.M.