

# **CHARTER**

**of the**

## **NASH STREAM FOREST CITIZENS COMMITTEE**

### **PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

The Nash Stream Forest Citizen Advisory Committee (NSFCC) was initially created in 1996 as called for in the Nash Stream Management Plan<sup>1</sup>. In 2004 the New Hampshire state legislature passed House Bill 1138 establishing the Nash Stream Forest Citizens Committee in statute (RSA 12-A:9-c).

The role of the Nash Stream Citizens Committee is to work in partnership with the USA – Forest Service (USFS - Conservation Easement Holder) Division of Forests and Lands (DF&L) and other state agencies to serve as a focused source of public input to improve the information base influencing management decisions relative to the Nash Stream Forest.

This is achieved in part by:

- review and comment on work plans;
- assist with ongoing management plan monitoring efforts;
- facilitate dialog between diverse interests and help resolve conflicts with resource decision making;
- promote communication and understanding of management issues;

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

Nash Stream Forest Citizens Committee membership is established in RSA 12-A:9-c and is as follows:

- One resident of the town of Stark, appointed by the selectmen.
- One resident of the town of Stratford, appointed by the selectmen.
- One resident of the town of Columbia, appointed by the selectmen.
- One person who shall have expertise in forestry and timber harvesting, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.
- One person who shall have expertise in monitoring conservation easements, appointed

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<sup>1</sup> The Nash Stream Forest Management Plan was developed over a period of 6 years by the New Hampshire Nash Stream Forest Citizens Committee

by the speaker of the house of representatives.

- One person who shall have expertise in outdoor recreation and tourism, appointed by the president of the senate.
- One person who shall have expertise in forest ecology and management of natural areas, appointed by the president of the senate.
- Two persons appointed by the governor with the consent of the council, one of whom shall be a representative of a New Hampshire snowmobile club, and one of whom shall be a representative of a New Hampshire environmental organization.
- A Coos county commissioner, or designee.
- The commissioner of the department of resources and economic development, or a citizen appointed by the commissioner as designee.
- The executive director of the fish and game department, or a citizen appointed by the executive director as designee.
- One person who is a member of the Nash Stream Campowners Association, appointed by the commissioner of the department of resources and economic development.

Committee members shall serve a 3-year term. Vacancies shall be filled, pursuant to RSA 12-A:9-c, for the unexpired term of office. Members may serve successive terms.

### **COMMITTEE OBJECTIVES**

- Provide opportunities for public input regarding ongoing management;
- Promote communication and understanding of management issues;
- Facilitate dialogue between diverse interests and help resolve conflicts with resource decision making.

### **DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE**

Pursuant to RSA 12-A:9-c, the duties of the NSFCC includes:

- Providing advice to the monitoring entity for monitoring compliance with the terms and

conditions of the working forest conservation easement covering approximately 39,601 acres of the Nash Stream forest tract.

- Providing advice to the department of resources and economic development and the fish and game department on the management of public recreational use of the Nash Stream forest tract, including the seasonal use of the road system, snowmobile trails and their use, and the terms for access and use of the tract by motorized vehicles.
- Providing advice on the management of natural areas within the tract.
- Providing advice to the department of resources and economic development and the fish and game department on any proposed revision to the stewardship or management plans required by the conservation easements on the 39,601 acres or the natural areas and, should amendments to these easements ever be contemplated, on the proposed amendments.
- Any and all duties of the "Citizen Advisory Committee" as outlined in the Nash Stream Management Plan of 1995 and revisions of 2002.

Additional committee duties include:

- Review and comment on work plans to ensure management is implemented in the direction provided by the management vision;
- Review and comment on management accomplishments at least annually to assess achievements and adherence to management guidelines;
- Review particularly sensitive and controversial management proposals and assist with resolving management controversies;
- Review and comment on pest control options;
- Sponsor public information meetings and assist with preparation and distribution of information for public consumption and comment;
- Promote public understanding of statutory requirements of the DF&L and other state agencies as they relate to the Nash Stream Forest.

## **DECISION MAKING**

The value of the NSFCC is to provide a range of public values and interests to improve the decision making process by the USFS, DF&L and other state agencies. On occasions where the NSFCC needs to reach a decision, NSFCC shall strive for consensus; however, if consensus cannot be attained then decisions will be reached by majority vote.

The NSFCC agrees to work within the guidelines and limitations set forth in the Conservation Easement, the Nash Stream Forest Management Plan, in written DF&L agreements and other state agency agreements, by the policies and procedures of the DF&L and other state agencies, and by state law. Robert's Rules of Order will govern the conduct of committee meetings as appropriate. Pursuant to RSA 12-A:9-c, NSFCC is comprised of thirteen (13) members, therefore, a quorum shall require seven (7) committee members.

## **COMMITTEE CHAIR**

Pursuant to RSA 12-A:9-c III, NSFCC members shall elect a chairperson and a vice chairperson from among the public members, for one-year terms. Preference shall be given to residents of the Great North Woods region if members from that area are willing to serve as chairman and vice chairman, otherwise other public members shall be elected.

The committee chair/vice chair shall: 1) receive correspondence from the public directed to the NSFCC and take action after consultation with the NSFCC and executive team, 2) draft letters from the NSFCC, 3) help set meeting agendas and schedules, 4) run NSFCC meetings, and 5) ensure a quorum is present at meetings where decisions are accepted as the action or opinion of the committee.

## **EXECUTIVE TEAM**

An executive team shall consist of the Director, DF&L or designee, the Director, Division of Parks and Recreation or designee, and NSFCC chair, or vice chair if the chair becomes unable to attend. The purpose of the executive team shall be to: 1) promote cooperation and coordination between the NSFCC and the public, 2) assist with coordination of outside

expertise and resources; 3) set meeting agendas and schedules, and 4) assist the NSFCC chair with the duties of the position.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

NSFCC meetings will be open to the public and space will be provided for them apart from seated committee members. Public notice of meetings will be done in accordance with RSA 91-A Right-To-Know law. Opportunity will be provided at the end of each meeting for interested individuals to speak before, or submit statements to the NSFCC. In addition, there may be opportunities for public comment during agenda discussions if the NSFCC desires. The public is encouraged to submit proposals or issues for discussion in writing in advance of the meeting. The NSFCC is not obligated to discuss proposals immediately but may defer discussion in order to give members opportunity to review the proposal.

Records, reports, working papers, and other documents prepared and/or used by the NSFCC will be made available to the public in accordance with RSA 91-A. The NSFCC will periodically reassess its public participation strategy.


**APPROVAL:**


  
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John Lanier  
Chairman – Nash Stream Forest Citizens Committee

  
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Date

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Brad Simpkins  
Interim Director, Division of Forests and Lands

  
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Date

  
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Jeffrey J. Rose  
Commissioner, Department of Resources and Economic Development

  
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Date

