

Nash Stream Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting (NSFCC)

December 14, 2016 Lancaster, N.H. 6:05pm – 8:03pm

NSFCC members present: John Lanier, Albert Cloutier, David Scanlan, Jim Herbert, David Govatski, Jeff Lougee, Rita Goumillout, Bill Noons, Ted Burns, Kevin Evans, Mike Waddell

NSFCC members not present: Mike Lynch, Norman Cloutier

Staff members present: Commissioner Rose, Director Brad Simpkins, Maggie Machinist, Todd Caron, Sabrina Stanwood, Jon Accardi, Will Guinn, Mike Jensen, Bill Carpenter

Agenda items: The meeting was started at 6:05pm by Chairman John Lanier. He welcomed everyone and stated that there were several new committee members who had replaced committee members whose term had expired. Chairman Lanier asked all of the committee members to introduce themselves.

Chairman Lanier asked Commissioner Rose and Director Simpkins to say a few words. Commissioner Rose thanked everyone for attending, welcomed the new members and stated that we are making good progress with a lot of work ahead.

Director Simpkins gave a brief summary of the law that created the NSFCC ([RSA 12-A:9-c](#)) and the duties of the NSFCC committee and reviewed the documents that were in the packets handed out to Committee members including the Code of Ethics law and the Statement of Financial Interest that committee members need to fill out and return to DRED by **January 20, 2017**.

Meeting Goal: The goal of tonight is to get a draft management plan out for public comment. Chairman Lanier said that there will be opportunity for the public to comment on the draft management plan once it is released for public comment.

Update on timber sale and road activities: Maggie reported that last year a timber sale was completed and that the cut went smoothly. There is another timber sale contracted for this year near 14 ½ mile road which will require a slight re-route of a snowmobile trail. The cut will be uneven aged management, with a 2 year contract, although hoping to get most of it done this winter.

Also, the Trout Unlimited work that has been going on in the past few years is continuing. This work includes adding fallen trees to streams to provide cover for fish species. This is the largest project of its type in the Northeast.

Update on the Council on Resources and Development (CORD) process and decisions regarding ATV trails: Director Simpkins gave a [powerpoint](#) presentation about CORD's findings on the legality of the Kelsey Notch trail in response to a [May 5, 2016 letter](#) submitted by the Society for the Protection of NH Forests (SPNHF), The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC). Director Simpkins also summarized [CORD's findings](#) for the 3 proposed ATV trail options to be included in the recreation chapter in the Nash Stream forest draft management plan. The 3 ATV trail options had been proposed in the [Nash Stream Forest OHRV briefing paper](#) submitted to CORD on October 13, 2016.

You can click on the link above for the powerpoint or go to Forests & Land's website to access the documents:
<http://www.nhdf.org/new-hampshire-state-lands/state-owned-reservations/NashStream.aspx>

Nash Stream Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting (NSFCC)

December 14, 2016 Lancaster, N.H. 6:05pm – 8:03pm

Maggie then reviewed significant changes to the draft management plan, such as formatting, increased even aged management and ATV use including a summary of the [Nash Stream Forest OHRV briefing paper](#) that DRED presented to CORD with 3 options regarding ATV trails. She stated that the Technical Team reviewed the Kelsey Notch Trail and completed a coarse and fine filter worksheet (law ([RSA 215-A:43](#))). The Technical Team determined the Kelsey Notch Trail to be consistent with the coarse and fine filter law. The Technical Team also walked the proposed east/west corridor trail and had several concerns including potential impacts to a beech ridge, an undisturbed spruce/fir habitat and a boulder field with possible denning sites. The Technical Team represents a broad spectrum of professional perspectives – a list of the Technical Team members was provided to the Committee.

After Maggie finished her presentation, Chairman Lanier explained to the Committee that the goal for the evening was to approve a draft management plan for DRED to release for public comment. Chairman Lanier recognized numerous members of the public on both sides of the ATV issue and he expressed a desire to have one or two representatives to speak on both sides of the issue. Chairman Lanier then opened the floor for discussion.

Harry Brown, representing the NH Off Highway Vehicle Association (NHOHVA) stated that CORD's recent [decision](#) about ATV trails needs to be clarified and that it is an extremely broad reach. Harry stated that there is a need to determine what CORD's authority in the decision making process is for Nash Stream Forest as well as to identify CORD's role in the management of this property. Harry reached out to Will Abbott and met with him this summer to figure it out and common ground was not found. Harry suggested to evaluate all proposals with an open mind, and stated that this is not a fair process and was disappointed with the approach. He felt that he could prove that the Technical Team is biased. Harry urged the Committee not to move the plan forward yet, to do it right. Harry stated the importance of OHRV's as an economic driver in the north country.

Larry Gomes, representing the Nash Stream OHRV task force (a part of the North Country OHRV coalition), stated that he represents 3 clubs that maintain the Nash Stream ATV trails. He provided a handout with a new proposal for a Southern connector ATV trail that had been a portion of the East/West Connector ATV trail proposed as Option 3 in the October 2016 briefing paper submitted to CORD. CORD met on December 8, 2016 and determined that the proposed Option 3 (the proposed East/West Connector ATV trail) was inconsistent with the coarse and fine filter but Larry would like to see the Southern connector evaluated by its own merits as a separate trail.

Larry asked that this new Southern connector ATV trail is considered separately. He referenced the handout that he gave out at the meeting tonight.

New Proposal for Southern connector ATV trail: Larry's new proposal was to utilize a snowmobile trail not currently built to ATV standards and to move the gate to Nash Stream Road so ATVs could get gas by utilizing a woods trail rather than Nash Stream Road.

Will Abbott, representing the Society for the Protection of NH Forests (SPNHF) spoke to the Committee and stated that this past summer, he had had a clear conversation with Harry Brown and that they

Nash Stream Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting (NSFCC)

December 14, 2016 Lancaster, N.H. 6:05pm – 8:03pm

agreed to disagree about the SPNHF position of the ATV trails at Nash Stream Forest. Will then said that there needs to be a larger discussion about ATVs in Coos County with all of the stakeholders.

Will Abbott urged the Committee to accept CORD's decision and he stated that CORD has a clear legal charge. Will stated that Harry has done a great job to build ATVs as an economic force in Coos County. Glenn Normandeau [F&G Executive Director] doesn't have the funds to enforce the current trail system. This is a huge issue that needs to be addressed. There are costs as well as economic benefits.

Will Abbott referenced the long history of Nash Stream and the importance of preserving traditional recreational uses. This property (before state ownership) was hunting, fishing and snowmobiles.

He asked for the ATV community to develop a written plan, including the direction they are headed and how this relates to Ride the Wilds. Will said that he is willing to work with Harry, DRED, F&G, clubs and all stakeholders and that this has to include everyone.

Chairman Lanier asked the Committee to review the draft management plan. He asked if they agreed with the all of the chapters in the draft management plan.

Director Simpkins stated that the recreation chapter is not in the draft management plan. He also stated that the proposed East/West Connector ATV trail (proposed as Option 3 in the Nash Stream Forest OHRV briefing paper) will not be in the draft recreation chapter of the management plan because CORD found that it was not consistent with both the vision of the management plan and was not consistent with [RSA 162-C:6](#). The West Side ATV trail and the Kelsey Notch ATV trail with CORD's conditions will be included in the draft recreation chapter.

The Committee was asked if there are any red flags in the chapters in the draft management plan?

Mike Waddell stated that he was concerned that the draft management plan had a provision for no new trails (e.g. hiking) for the length of the management plan. He is concerned about the amount of bureaucracy and the lack of ability to propose any new trails for 10 years is concerning.

Ted Burns talked to the difficulty of establishing new snowmobile trails at Nash Stream. Ted highlighted the economic hardships in the north county, including lost businesses in Clarksville. He stated that we have to broaden our vision for Nash Stream, it is now limited to small, select group of people (bird watchers and anglers). Ted also would like to see the recreation chapter address motorized access for people with disabilities.

Chairman Lanier asked if the Committee is ready to propose a draft management plan for public review? He then asked the Committee if there were any concerns with any of the chapters?

A joint motion was brought forward by Ted Burns and Mike Waddell to include the following three items:

- 1: A process for evaluating additional non-motorized trails during the life of the plan
2. Evaluate access for people with disabilities
3. Southern connector as proposed by Larry Gomes be considered

Nash Stream Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting (NSFCC)

December 14, 2016 Lancaster, N.H. 6:05pm – 8:03pm

Motion passed.

Director Simpkins stated that the draft recreation chapter will be emailed to the Committee members to review and approve before the Committee officially meets again.

Once the Committee members approve the draft recreation chapter, DRED will release the draft management plan for public comment in January. DRED will then open a 45 day public comment period on the draft management plan. Public comments can be submitted by email, mail or fax and for more information visit www.nhdfi.org. DRED will hold two public meetings, one in the Lancaster area in the evening and one in Concord during the day.

Chairman Lanier stated that the next meeting date is to be determined. His term as Chairman has ended. The Committee needs to determine who the next chairman will be, however he agreed to remain as interim chairman in the short term.

Director Simpkins added that a vice chairman is needed too since it had been Rebecca Brown.

Several citizens offered comments. Several people spoke on both sides of the ATV issue. DRED maintained notes on the pertinent points. Chairman Lanier stated that they will have the opportunity to submit these comments for record during the public comment period.

Rita Goumillout asked if the changes to the management plan need to consider the wording of the Conservation Easement? Chairman Lanier answered yes.

Chairman Lanier asked the Committee if they had any other concerns or questions, none being raised, he then asked Commissioner Rose if he had any closing statements.

Commissioner Rose thanked everyone for their participation working toward managing the land in a thoughtful way and recognized Councilor Kenney who was in attendance.

Director Simpkins thanked everyone.

Chairman Lanier adjourned the meeting at 8:03pm, Ted Burns made the motion and was seconded by Al Cloutier.

Action Items:

1. All committee members review the Code of Ethics law and the Statement of Financial Interest.
2. All committee members need to fill out and return the Statement of Financial Interest by **January 20, 2017**.
3. Will Guinn shall send out the revised recreation chapter to the Committee members for review.
4. Committee members shall review and approve the draft recreation chapter.
5. DRED will release draft management plan for public comment.