

Nash Stream Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting

January 29, 2015 Lancaster, N.H. 6:10 P.M. – 7:33 P.M.

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

NSFCC members present:

Tom Bushey, Steve Sabre, Albert Cloutier, Norman Cloutier, Bill Noons, Mike Lynch, Ted Burns, Kevin Evans, Rebecca Brown

NSFCC members not present:

Dave Goulet, Wendell Lees, John Lanier, Mike Waddell,

Staff members present:

Maggie Machinist, Todd Caron, Brad Simpkins, Ken Desmarais, Clint Savage

Agenda Items:

- 1. Timbersale Update and Road Activities** – Maggie Machinist gave a brief explanation of this winter's timbersale and the Nash Stream Road clearing project. Rebecca Brown asked when the logging job would be completed. There is about 1 month left for completion. Rebecca was also curious as to where the wood was going. Maggie explained that the logging contractor is the one who decides because it is a stumpage sale.
- 2. COHOS Trail Additions** - The COHOS Trail Association presented a 10 year plan to Maggie in a meeting prior to the NSFCC meeting. Their plans include constructing a new shelter in Stark. Three options of location were provided with the preferred option identified. A new trail is proposed from the 14 ½ Road (Trio Ponds Road) to the Percy Loop tent site. This would allow the trail to be in the woods instead of a road walk. The location of the proposed trail would be located on a part of Long Mountain, but not in high elevation. Fish & Game expressed concern about the trail being located in high elevation habitat, so the COHOS Trail Association found a route on lower elevation. Ted Burns was curious as to why Fish & Game was concerned about the trail being located in high elevation. Maggie explained that it is unfragmented forest and is very important habitat for certain animal species.

The other proposed trail would be a relocation near Pike Brook. Currently the trail follows the Nash Stream Road and crosses Pike Brook. The proposal is to keep the trail on the east side of Pike Brook and avoid an area of beaver activity. Both trails have been walked by members of the COHOS Trail Association and Forests & Lands staff members. COHOS member Ken Vallery also explained how they wanted to construct 2 Kiosks with maps and information. Brad Simpkins wanted to know if the shelter would be built this summer. He also wanted to know if the shelters are well used. Members Ken Vallery and Kim Votta said there are logs are the shelters and they are becoming more popular.

3. Chapter Reviews –

Ecology

Rebecca asked if all the information was new. Some of the information is new, but much of it was copied and pasted out of the old plan with minor revisions. Another question was if there were any plans to have photos of rare plants and if any survey was planned in Nash Stream. Also, would there be any way or plan of keeping track of what the management plan explained we'll do as far as monitoring or surveying areas. Brad Simpkins explained that information about rare plants is documented but not released. Ken Desmarias said all Nash Stream information comes directly from the New Hampshire Heritage Bureau database.

Protection (Health)

Kevin Evans suggested including information on invasive species in the Health section of the Protection Chapter. Currently the Health section only includes forest pests. Ted Burns asked if the State is allowed to use pesticides as any other landowner would be and what the plan was for Nash Stream Forest if the Emerald Ash Borer makes its way in. Brad explained to him how the State currently treats by peeling the bark to attract the beetles and then uses an insecticide to control it. Wasps are also used and have been released in parts of New Hampshire.

Rebecca asked if the EAB does arrive in Nash Stream Forest before it's been controlled would all Ash be cut. If the Ash is located in an area of a timbersale it would be, but it would not be specifically targeted otherwise.

Bill Noons asked if the green traps are out now. The green traps are only out during the growing season.

Steve Sabre asked if the larvae are temperature sensitive. Brad said they don't appear to be killed off by cold temperatures.

Spruce budworm traps have also been used in Nash Stream Forest with no spike in insects so far.

Balsam Woolly Adelgid is also causing dieback.

Protection (Forest Fire and Law)

Old information has been removed from the old plan which has shortened the new plan. Rebecca had concerns about law enforcement capacity and trends. Are personnel going to be able to enforce activities in Nash Stream Forest. If there is a fire would we suppress it, or let it burn. Current statute says fires will be put out.

Fisheries

Steve Sabre submitted some comments on areas he felt needed to be re-worked. Kevin Evans suggested that there be guidelines about culvert/bridge installation. He also thought that there should be a section describing how Nash Stream Forest is monitored (forestry, culverts, ATV's, etc.)

4. **Next Chapters** - At the end of February the Technical Team will review the next two chapters (Forestry and Wildlife) which will be sent to the NSFCC by the beginning of March.
5. **Next Meeting Date** – The next meeting will be held on March 19th in Lancaster from 6:00 – 8:00.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 P.M.