

NASH STREAM CITIZENS COMMITTEE
MARCH 31, 2006
Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Fred King, Committee Chair representing town of Colebrook
Phil Bryce, Director Forests and Lands (Moderator)
Ken Desmarais, Forest Management Bureau Administrator NH Forests and Lands
Wink Lees, Committee Member representing The Nature Conservancy
Eric Stohl, Committee Member representing town of Columbia
Dave Dumais, Committee Member representing the Camp Owners Association
Dave Goulet, Committee Member representing the Groveton Trail Blazers
Candy Livingston, Committee Member representing local business
Ted Burns, Committee Member representing the Town of Stratford
Michael Lynch, Committee Member representing timber management interests.
John Lanier, Committee Member representing NH Fish and Game
Dianne Emerson, NH Fish and Game
Jim MacCartney, Trout Unlimited
David Falkenham, Forests and Lands
John Magee, NH Fish and Game
Margaret Machinist, NH Forests and Lands
Barbara Tetreault, Berlin Daily Sun
Melissa Grima, Coos County Democrat
Andy Schafermeyer, NH Fish and Game
Bert vonDohrmann, NH Forests and Lands
John Accardi, NH Forests and Lands

3:30 pm - Phil Bryce makes opening remarks and goes over meeting agenda.

- He stresses the importance of the Nash Stream Management Plan and the priority of discussing the trout habitat restoration project.

Fred King is nominated to be the Chairman of the Nash Stream Citizens Committee

- He Accepts the nomination

Phil Bryce reviews the Statute of the Committee and discusses the roles and duties of the Committee.

Fred King Stresses that users of the Nash Stream Forest, and local residents have a voice in how the property is managed, hence the creation of the new Citizens Committee. If members choose not to join in meetings, their views will not be heard.

Ken Desmarais gives a presentation on the history of the Nash Stream Forest, and it's acquisition by the State of NH.

Wink Lees inquires about the Conservation Easement held by the USFS, and wonders how active they are in the management of the property.

Ted Burns inquires about trail funding, specifically who pays for hiking trail maintenance.

- The Cohos trail is maintained by private volunteers.
- The Percy Peaks and Sugarloaf trails are maintained by DRED.

Nash Stream Activities, Dave Falkenham:

- Access Road Budget, road maintenance, ditching, culverts and gravel.
- 14 ½ road improvement work and logging access roads
- ATV trail overview
- Boundary line Maintenance
- Timber Management activities past, present and future (handout)
- General overview of Property attributes (water, recreation, rare plants, archeological and historical, topography, natural communities and wildlife)

Camp Lease Discussion, Bill Carpenter:

- 91 camps = \$48,000.00 in lease revenue for Forest Management and Protection Fund.
- New Lease agreement is going well and will be reviewed every five years. It is stronger than the old one.
- Camps are privately owned with no set boundaries.
- One lease has been revoked.

Overall discussion of Lease and Timber income and where the money goes. Does money made in Nash Stream, stay with the management of Nash Stream?

Phil Bryce explains differences in the General Fund and the Forest Management and Protection Fund.

It is mutually suggested that money from the lease camps go into its own fund to maintain the road system at Nash Stream.

Candy Livingston suggests that the state lease camp be used for public groups such as the Boy Scouts or other educational purposes.

Overall discussion about using the state lease camp and landing sites along the main road for school groups, youth groups, Boy Scouts etc.

ATV Trail Review, David Falkenham:

- Three year pilot program is over; this is the fifth season for the trail.
- The trail is in excellent shape due to the extra careful construction job, maintenance is minimal.

Dave Goulet mentions that a spot on the West side road is eroding, and something should be done to permanently fix the problem. Grant Money may be needed to fix this problem. Dave Falkenham will talk to Brad Presby about Grant money for this specific issue.

Bill Carpenter talked about the three year pilot studies:

- Water quality studies came out good
- Wildlife, birds and amphibians is unknown (data lies with Audubon Society, Carol Foss)

General discussion on what to do next, now that the three year pilot is over. An agreement must be made to continue the use of the trail and eventually make a final decision on whether the trail should be a permanent addition to the forest.

Phil Bryce will talk to the Commissioner to extend the use of the ATV Trail for another season, based on the recommendation of the Committee. A decision to make the trail permanent will come at a later date.

A field tour of the Nash Stream Forest, for the Citizens Committee will take place on June 2 or June 9, 2006. When a date and time is set, the Committee will be informed.

Presentation on Nash Stream Trout Habitat Restoration Project (handout)

- Jim MacCartney, River Restoration Specialist for Trout Unlimited
- John Magee, Fish Habitat Biologist NH Fish and Game

Dave Falkenham, General overview of project and its affiliation to the Nash Stream Management Plan.

Jim and John discuss the four major detriments to native brook trout habitat and what they hope to do to remedy the problems.

- Lack of Pool habitat and aquatic structure – create pools using heavy equipment, constructing artificial log jams, placement of large boulders to create structure.
- Lack of streamside vegetation – Grade and plant stream side vegetation
- Disconnection with tributaries due to undersized, perched culverts on the main road that make fish passage impossible – replace undersized culverts with bridges or arched culverts.
- Loss of riparian habitat due to post dam breach channeling of stream – mechanically grade down artificial banks so that the stream can access its floodplains again and deposit sediment thus slowing water velocities, lessening flood problems and eventually creating better riparian habitat.

Dave Goulet questions who will maintain bridges if culverts are replaced by bridges.

Dave Falkenham hopes that the money saved by the bridges (more water capacity means fewer road washouts) will go towards bridge maintenance. In the long run the hope is to save money.

Jim MacCartney stresses that the decision as to what types of crossing devices to use has not yet been determined.

Fred King agrees that better crossings will strengthen the road infrastructure at Nash Stream and hopefully save money in the long run.

Phil Bryce makes sure that public access is accounted for during all phases of construction.

Jim MacCartney and Dave Falkenham stress that work will be done prior to Memorial Day when possible, and on weekdays and post Labor Day. All efforts will be made to minimize public access problems, but some may occur for short periods.

John Lanier suggested doing work at low water times of year and other possible sources of funding via Fish and Game.

Wink Lees expressed concern for material brought in containing invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed.

Discussion of Funding and workload for the project.

End of Presentation

Dave Falkenham and Phil Bryce present closing remarks.

Fred King adjourns the meeting, 6:30 pm