

Nash Stream Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting

May 21, 2015 Lancaster, N.H. 6:03 P.M. – 8:33 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, Wink Lees, John Lanier, Mike Waddell

NSFCC members not present:

Rebecca Brown

Staff members present:

Maggie Machinist, Todd Caron, Brad Simpkins, Ken Desmarais, Clint Savage, John Accardi, Jeffrey Rose, Andrew Zboray, Bill Carpenter

Agenda Items:

- 1. Introductions** – Chairman John Lanier explained to the crowd that the meeting was not the public comment period yet and was a working meeting to go over the draft of the Nash Stream Forest Management Plan. He also explained that there would be a time for them to comment at the end of the meeting and eventually when the plan has been finished there would be an opportunity to comment on it.
- 2. Road Activities** - Maggie Machinist gave a brief explanation of the opening of the gate on Friday morning May 22. She explained that the 14 ½ (Trio Ponds) Road was originally supposed to remain closed because it was still too soft to drive on, but it would be opened after all because it had firmed up enough to travel on.
- 3. Chapter Reviews** –
Cultural Heritage
More information on the history of logging in Nash Stream Forest should be included. Currently it's lacking logging history and the tech team would like to include more because it has been such a big part of the history.

Kevin Evans suggested a map of how the Nash Stream Forest ownership was pieced together through history. He even said that he may have an old map showing the

history of ownership. Maggie said that there was a diagram in the old plan that showed just that and it would probably be included in the new plan.

Mike Waddell thought the maps in the old plan were hard to figure out. Forests and Lands GIS specialist will make all new maps and they will be fold outs and larger in size. Mike asked if the NSFCC members would have the opportunity to review the maps before the plan is completed. Steve Sabre also commented that he thought it was a good idea and the rest of the members agreed as well.

John Lanier asked if a historic site is ever recovered in Nash Stream Forest would it be protected. Brad Simpkins explained that it's written in chapter 5.15.2 under ***identification and protection*** that it will be protected.

Recreation History

The recreation history has been taken from the old plan and updated. Formerly ATV's weren't allowed in Nash Stream Forest, but the plan was revised in 2002 to include a pilot program with limited ATV use.

Mike Waddell questioned a sentence in the hiking section. It explained that in 1940 there was a trails map published which included a dozen trails on Nash Stream property. The current condition and use of many of these historic trails is unknown. He wanted to know if we really didn't know the conditions of the historic trails.

Cohos trail and lean-to shelters have also been added to the plan.

Wink Lees asked if any trapping takes place on the property. Maggie explained the trapping procedures and how the property is separated into five different units.

Jeffrey Rose asked if fish stocking occurred on the property. Yes stocking occurs.

Ted Burns asked if the Groveton Trail Blazers were still operating under an MOA and if the ATV MOA's are ever going to lapse. Maggie said MOA's are becoming more prevalent on state owned lands.

He was also concerned that ATV use is limited to when they can ride (1/2 hour before sunrise and 1/2 hour after sunset) and wanted to know why and if it was going to be addressed in the new plan. It will not be changed or addressed in the new plan.

Mike Lynch acknowledged that the old plan has a paragraph about allowing ATV access for individuals with disabilities along with written permission, use by officials and a legitimate case by case basis, but the new plan doesn't. Maggie noted that it must have been overlooked. *(The 2002 revisions had removed the section on Public Use Guidelines where that paragraph was originally)*

Wink Lees questioned how the conservation easement is overseen by the U.S. Forest Service and if ATV's should be allowed by what's written in it. Maggie explained that the Forest Service is not very involved.

Steve Sabre mentioned that the appendix should have a copy of the conservation easement.

Bill Noons said the plan should say OHRV instead of ATV and UTV. The Tech Team has discussed this numerous times and decided OHRV is too broad a term. ATV and UTV are used to limit what's allowed.

A brief discussion on weight limits occurred.

Ted Burns started a discussion about gates and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Other Uses

Brad Simpkins mentioned including canoeing and kayaking in the other uses section.

Hiking

Mike Waddell showed concern over a sentence explaining that no new hiking trails will be constructed. He wanted to know why. Maggie said in the next ten years there won't be any new trails. Mike said the door should be kept open just in case.

Kim Neilson of the Cohos trail would like to have the option to move trails so there is no conflict between hikers and motorized vehicles.

Ted Burns is concerned about saying no new trails. He doesn't want to be "painted into a corner". Ten years is too long to wait.

Ken Desmarais said there will be a process to amend, but we haven't come up with anything yet. There has to be a real exception to the rule.

Wink Lees said discretionary consent in conservation easements will help with the amendment process.

Steve Sabre explained that less well maintained trails are better than many trails not maintained.

John Lanier mentioned checking old trails to see if they are still in use.

Snowmobiling

Maintain current trails. No new trails are desired at this time.

ATV

Wink Lees asked about the condition of the Kelsey Notch trail. Ted Burns asked if it would still be a pilot trail. Maggie said it would become a trail with an MOA.

There was a discussion about an east-west connector trail.

Many expressed interest in snowmobile trail corridor 5 being used as an ATV trail and the possibility of adding it to the new plan.

Camp Licenses

Tom Bushey says he wanted to add new camps to historic campsites. Maggie explained that there were no plans to add new leases.

Ted Burns asked if camp owners would be allowed access to ATV trails. It's not planned. Tom Bushey liked the explanations of points of interests and mileage describing them in the old plan.

John Lanier wants one document before the final draft. Ken Desmarais says it should be edited first and then reviewed by the NSFCC.

4. **Next Meeting Date** – A new meeting date will be set once an edited version of the draft has been completed.
5. The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 P.M.