

**Nash Stream Citizens Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
May 16, 2002**

Present: Rita Goumillout, Dave Goulet, Everett Frizzell, Dave Tellman, Peter Benson, Fred King, Mary Sloat, James Espy, Paul Doscher

Staff: Tom Miner, Dave Falkenham (Management Bureau),  
Brad Presby, Chris Gamache (Trails Bureau)

Opening: 3:31 pm

Chairman Tellman welcomed everyone and around the room introductions were made.

Old Business: M. Sloat made a motion to accept the minutes from February 13, 2002. Dave Goulet seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Tom Miner introduced Chris Gamache of the Trails Bureau to bring everyone up to date on the progress of trail construction for ATV use. This trail is a loop that enters the Nash Stream Forest along the southwest boundary (Bordeau Trail). The Bordeaux trail then connects to the West Side Rd. and travels north and exits the property on the Andritz Trail. The Trails Bureau has examined the entire seven-mile loop and the following preparations have been made:

- The proposed route has been mapped using Global Positioning System.
- Contractor Albert Cloutier has been contacted to perform the trail work.
- Two Re-routes have been located to avoid a beaver pond, and wet section.
- Approximately 44 spots that need culverts or bridges have been located.
- Chris Gamache has met with Water Resources, they have agreed to monitor water quality and macro-invertebrate populations along the trail. They will establish a baseline and then do testing three times a year for three years.
- The Wetlands Board has been notified.
- There are currently no air quality concerns.
- A Baseline of Decibel Level data is being established along the trail.
- Proposals have been submitted to do wildlife monitoring along the trail.

Brad Presby would like to start work around June 1, 2002 however the wet weather has set that back. He would like to set a conservative finish date for mid to late July. He feels that the work should be done correctly and not held to a rushed schedule, and that the date of completion should not be guaranteed. All members were in favor of this conservative approach. The trail will be 12-14' wide to accommodate a trail groomer for winter snow machine use.

D. Goulet wanted to confirm that landowner permission, on abutting properties, has been secured before the trail work begins. C. Gamache mentioned that this was the responsibility of the ATV Club and to his knowledge they had secured the proper permission.

P. Benson asked if there is a standard permission form that landowners have to sign.  
C. Gamache said that this is possible, however verbal permission is the accepted norm.

F. King asked if all this monitoring work is standard procedure on all OHRV trails.  
C. Gamache says no, that this ATV pilot project is one of a kind project so it is receiving special attention.

F. King feels the trail construction should take as long as it has to, in order to do the job correctly. The Committee agreed on this and asked that Commissioner Bald be asked to not allow the trail to open until it is ready to properly support ATV use.

M. Sloat asks about open or closed signage of trails. C. Gamache explains the rule that says all trails are closed unless they are specifically posted open to a particular use.

F. King asks if there is a minimum snow depth requirement for snowmobile trails. C. Gamache says no. F. King suggests that the ATV trail be closed during periods of extreme wet or dry weather.

J. Espy asks if there is a general spring open date for any state trails. C. Gamache and B. Presby explain that they generally like to have summer trails open by Memorial Day.

P. Benson is intrigued by the work so far and would like to have a field tour of the project when it is completed. D. Tellman agrees that a field tour is a good idea.

T. Miner and C Gamache talk about the environmental baseline work that is underway or planned:

- Water quality and Soil documentation
- Tracking survey of large and medium sized mammals
- Mortality survey of large and medium sized mammals.
- Survey of reptile activity and turtle nesting along the trail.
- Bird Mapping Surveys.

The N.H. Natural Heritage Inventory folks will be walking the trail in the near future to look for rare or endangered plant communities.

F. King wants to make sure that the groups selected to do these tasks perform their duties in a professional and unbiased manner.

P. Doscher arrived late and D. Tellman brought him up to date on topics covered.

#### **Public Comments April 10-30, 2002**

Tom Miner briefed the committee on the public comments from April 10-30, 2002.

- There were 195 comments during this period.
- We are now starting to get more anti-ATV comments.
- Most comments refer to the monitoring process, and that all information found through monitoring be made available to the public.

- Most comments were in favor of erasing the camp lease termination date.
- There were no comments on the 10-year review process.

T. Miner feels that the Pilot Trail is well located and addresses the concerns that many people had. Barb Smith (Sierra Club) called T. Miner and stated that she is not concerned with the ATV Club itself, but expressed concern about use of the trail by non-members and proper enforcement. She also stated that the Sierra Club was concerned about the lack of Baseline environmental data and/or a monitoring program. Tom Miner explained to her that both of these concerns are being addressed within the limits of available staff and resources available.

P. Benson notes that all citizens in N.H. Have a say in the activities on State Land and that our job is to monitor this program and respond to citizen concerns.

**Tom Miner Up-dated the Committee on changes to the lease camps policy as stated in the Nash Stream Forest Management Plan 2002 Updates and Revisions.**

R. Goumillout notes that most camp owners are satisfied with the changes and that there are some specific questions about the wording of the changes.

T. Miner says that the department will send a letter to the camp owners to help explain the changes in the Nash Stream Forest Management Plan 2002 Updates and Revisions.

P. Benson asks if there would ever be a case where the State of New Hampshire DRED Forests and Lands would not exercise their right of first refusal if a lease holder doesn't transfer their lease to a family member or sell the camp on the open market. T. Miner states that state purchase of camps would depend upon available state funds and that currently there are no funds dedicated for the purchase of the Nash Stream camps. R. Goumillout ensures the Committee that all leaseholders are happy and have no intentions of terminating their leases in the near future.

**Nash Stream Forest Management Plan 2002 Updates and Revisions (DRAFT)**

There is discussion about how best to publish the revisions to the plan so that the changes can be easily noticed and understood by anyone who is reading them. P. Doscher notes his concern that reading the plan, and switching back and forth between the Plan and the Revisions might be confusing. He feels that that changes should be inserted into the Plan in such a way that they replace the outdated material. D. Tellman notes that this would require a re-printing of the entire Plan document, and that this would not be a cost effective approach at this time. Instead he feels that the committee should simply publish the updates and revisions as a separate document, and re-print the entire plan later during the 10-year review process.

**Motion: E. Frizzell makes a motion to approve the Nash Stream Forest Management Plan 2002 Updates and Revisions package. D. Goulet Seconds the motion. All Committee members are in favor. The motion passes.**

Public Comments:

One individual, who was present only at the beginning of the meeting, expressed his concern about OHRV parking at Nash Stream. E. Frizzell said that he knew this person and that he would catch and explain to him that ATV parking will only be available through the ATV Club and that snowmobile parking is available on Albert Cloutiers' property or at the Nash Stream main entrance.

Edith Tucker notes that the Colebrook Chamber of Commerce now has a new information center about two miles north of Colebrook on Route 3. The Center has excellent displays about the local area. She noted that there was no information concerning state owned land at this center and that the State of New Hampshire DRED Forests and Lands and Parks and Recreation should use this facility as a means to inform the public about state owned property.

T. Miner said he would look into this.

Round Table:

F. King notes that the committee needs to consider permitting some overnight campsites along the Cohos trail, and that Kim Nielson should meet with us to discuss options.

M. Sloat and P. Benson agree that the Cohos trail should have some form of dispersed low impact camping along the CT.

P. Doscher notes that location of the campsites should be a primary concern.

D. Tellman Recommends that Kim Nielson be invited to speak a Committee meeting to propose campsite locations and update the committee on the progress of the Cohos Trail.

**Motion: P. Doscher Makes a motion to state that the Committee is in favor of supporting camp sites along the Cohos Trail in Nash Stream- in concept, and that Kim Nielson meet with the Committee to discuss further Details. J. Espy proposes an amendment to this motion to state that the Committee supports the consideration of pursuing remote campsites – in concept - along the Cohos Trail at Nash Stream. P. Benson seconds the motion with the proposed amendment. All are in favor of the motion. All are in favor of the amendment to the motion. The motion, with amendment passes.**

Next Meeting: T. Miner will contact Kim Nielson about presenting his camp site proposal to the Committee and will be in touch with all committee members concerning a field trip possibly in late June 2002 to visit the ATV trail construction and upgrade work.

Meeting Adjourned: 5:10