

CLHCC Special Meeting  
Connecticut Lakes Timber Company Forest Management Plan  
August 28, 2024  
Pittsburg Fire Station

In attendance:

Gail Hanson	Ray DeMaio
Darrin Jock	Scott Mason
Charlie Levesque	Harry Brown
Ray Gorman	Shawn Hagan

Chair Gail Hanson began the meeting shortly after 1:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Sarah Stewart, Corey Clark and Pierre Bedard were unable to attend the meeting in person and asked to participate virtually. Gail asked for a motion to allow, no motion was made to allow their virtual attendance.

Absent Members: Hasen Burns, Don Noyes, Eric Stohl, Gene Chandler, and Tobey Owen

Commissioner Sarah Stewart welcomed the committee and apologized for not attending in person due to recent surgery. She said she would be listening to the presentation and public comment about the stewardship plan.

Blake Stansell from Aurora Sustainable Forestry began by reading parts of the plan introduction which highlighted their management goals for the next 10 years. He stressed that harvesting would continue on the property, and they will manage in a way to keep the forest healthy. He also stated that they will follow the goals of the conservation easement and continue to provide public access to the property and support outdoor recreation. The current plan has proposed 20,000-30,000 cords cut/year which is an increase from what they proposed in the draft plan released in January.

Shawn Hagan spoke broadly about the timber types found on the property and the species and products they will be focusing on.

Committee Comments/Questions

Charlie Levesque

- Noted that beech leaf disease has been found in Massachusetts. The plan may want to acknowledge how these types of disease may impact management.
- P. 42 notes the lack of legal access to Indian Stream Road. Have you tried to negotiate legal access since the new ownership took place. Charlie also reminded DNCR that they don't have legal access also.
- P.83 discusses growth rate, the numbers have changed since the January draft, these numbers seem more in line to what is the area average. Shawn replied that these numbers are more correct.
- The harvest level was 40,000 cords prior to carbon credits being sold on the property... it appears that the allowable cut can be higher, he'd like to see it raised to be 25,000-35,000 because in his experience rarely does the maximum be met and it's usually the minimum. Wants to be sure that the decisions to allow the exemptions to the allowable cut range are mutually agreed upon.

Ray Gorman

- The forest products from this property support loggers and lumberyards in Coos County and provide income to Pittsburg, Clarksville and Stewartstown.
- Would like to see a minimum of 30,000 cords/year.
- The Coos County Commissioner's need more time to review the plan and to understand it's implications.
- ATVs need more access to the property & the landowner needs to be more flexible.
- Requesting more transparency of management.

Harry Brown

- He has been a committee member for 20 years. The concept was to have a working forest.
- There were no ATVs when the conservation easement was placed on the property, and they were added as a new use.
- Need to hold the landowner responsible for upholding the purpose of the property.

Councilor Kenney

- Spoke about the recent legislation implemented for a carbon registry and asks if things can be on hold to let the process be implemented.

Corey Clark – DES

- P. 64-66, be sure to clarify when permits are needed. Stream crossings also need to be permitted.

Mark Brady – Coos County Administrator

- Why are we trucking wood from NY state to our mills... it is not carbon neutral to haul it.
- Need transparency and communication from the landowner. Recent press releases highlight the company's sales of carbon credits to out of state companies. How does that help NH and its communities?
- 20 years ago, carbon credits weren't contemplated. Need to keep volumes high. Need to replace lost revenue somehow.
- Request more time to review the plan.

MOTION by Ray Gorman to extend the comment period one month to October 6<sup>th</sup>, seconded by Charlie Levesque, discussion... the next CLHCC meeting is October 4<sup>th</sup>, should the comment period be closed so we can get an update from the agency. Ray Gorman withdrew his motion.

MOTION by Ray Gorman to extend the comment period to October 4<sup>th</sup>, seconded by Charlie Levesque. No discussion. 6 yes votes, one abstain.

Commissioner Stewart thanked the committee for their recommendation.

Gail Hanson asked for a motion to adjourn, Charlie Levesque motioned to adjourn, seconded by Harry Brown. All in favor. Meeting ended at 2:30.

Respectfully Submitted, Johanna Lyons