

Connecticut Lakes Citizens Committee - April 13, 2019

In Attendance:

Member	Appointed/Representing	Staff	Representing
Harry Brown	Governor & Council	Brad Simpkins	Div Forests & Lands
Hasen Burns	Town of Stewartstown	Phil Bryce	Div Parks & Rec
Gene Chandler	Speaker of the House	Chris Gamache	Div Parks & Rec
Ray DeMaio	Town of Clarksville	Johanna Lyons	Div Parks & Rec
Jim Gallagher	Dept Environmental Services	Brent Wucher	Div Parks & Rec
Gail Hanson	Governor & Council	David DeGuttola	LandVest
Darrin Jock	Town of Pittsburg		
Richard Judd	Town of Pittsburg		
Ken Hastings	Senate President		
John Morse	Leaseholder Association		
Rick Samson	Coos County Commissioners		
Will Staats	Fish & Game Department		
Sarah Stewart	Dept Natural & Cultural Resources		
Matt Sampson	Landowner, The Forestland Group		

Meeting opened at 10:10 by Chair Gail Hanson who asked Conservation Officer Chris Egan to lead the pledge of allegiance.

Welcome and Introductions

Curt Shaw: Pittsburg Ridge Runners, President, welcomed the committee and the public to the clubhouse. The club was established 1966 and today they groom 200-250 miles of trails per night. Employ 15 -20 people and have an annual budget of \$350,000. They are engaged in state & community programs. Raise and award a \$1,000 scholarship to Pittsburg students and contribute donations to Pittsburg fire. Over 4,000 regular members. With over \$50,000 in repairs on old groomers, they recently bought a new groomer for \$200,000 using club funds.

Dave DeGruttola: LandVest forester for the property, based in Bethel, Maine. The property will still be managed from the office in West Stewartstown.

Landowner Announcement

Matt Samson, notified the committee that The Forestland Group is planning on putting the property up for sale. Bidding process will start in June, the process tends to take a while and he doesn't anticipate closing until the end of 2019. There's a great easement on the property, it protects the things that are important to the community and the state. Until the property is sold, they will continue to manage it as outlined in the stewardship plan and annual operating plan.

Brad – The State of NH has an agreement of first offer/first refusal and will respond if the State want to purchase it.

Minutes

Harry motions, Gene seconds the motion. Discussion, Gene asked a question, the minutes said that a meeting was scheduled for May 11, 2018 to discuss the SUP application by the ATV club, did the meeting happen and what was the outcome? Chris G responded that the minutes are correct for what was said at the last meeting and the update is that there was no change to the ATV timeframe. The minutes were adopted by a voice vote.

Committee Business

Administrative Policies

Johanna drafted administrative policies in response to questions by Gail Hanson regarding the chair's term and duties and the committee duties. The policies were intended to clarify the statute, not change the responsibilities of the committee. A sub-committee was established to work on the policies; Darrin Jock, Richard Judd and Gene Chandler. The following were questions or clarifications that were made during the discussion.

- AG to look at the member terms and if the appointing authority is able to change their schedule
- Date of the meetings, Phil likes meeting in May
- Add that the agenda shall follow the statutory duties of the committee
- Chairman term 3 years or the term of the chairperson since they may become chair partway through their appointment.
- Vice-Chair ok, why are they the chair of roads/gates/parking lots... second biggest issue of the committee. Would it be better if each committee chose their own chair rather than prescribing in the policies?
- Sub-Committee are a good idea; can they reach out to the public to join them?
- Ken, thinks a good idea that members of the public are able to join the committees.

Plan Revisions and Easement Amendment (per section RSA 12-A:9-b,V(d))

Plan Revisions

- The "Public Access and Recreation Management Plan" and "Road Management Plan" was completed in 2017 and next revision due in 2021; will begin revisions in 2020.
- Property stewardship plan is being revised by landowner currently.

Easement Amendment

- No easement amendment proposed.

Monitoring Compliance (per section RSA 12-A:b,V(a))

- Maggie was unable to attend but sent a note in to say she has been conducting monitoring and there has been no issues to report.

Public Recreational Use (per section RSA 12-A:b,V(b))

CLHWF Update – Sandy Young

- Multi-use trail from Coleman to the property is going well and should finish next year.
- Cohos trail, walked/flagged/GPS now in landowner hands for approval. CTA will use part of the existing trail
- Meeting with LandVest next Friday to review road maintenance and summer/winter logging
- Some pit toilet facilities were damaged from use (dirty), working with the clubs to get maintenance sorted out.

State Park, Natural Area and Lake Francis Impoundment Management Update (per section RSA 12-A:b,Vc), (g), and (h))

Lake Francis Impoundment – Jim Gallagher

- Evaluating the outlet for the Murphy Dam, 80 years old, downstream valves need to be replaced. Hired a firm to inspect the dam and works. Tricky because need to still maintain flows down stream. Gate guides and seat need work. In the fall they are going to dewater the penstock. The pulleys on the upstream gate needs work too.
- Ken Hastings, ground water in April/May may be able to keep minimum flow needed.
- Twenty years ago was the last maintenance/measurement of the dam.

Lake Francis State Park - Sandy Young

- \$45,000 of tree damage last spring, still doing cleanup
- No new development in the state parks, getting ready for spring.

Connecticut Lakes Natural Area – Will Staats

- Timber harvest planned at South Bay in the winter 2019-2020
- East inlet Road project is complete & can be driven once roads open for the year
- Many game cameras on the CLNA deployed and seeing interesting things

Lease Camps (per section RSA 12-A:b,V(b), (e) and (h))

Landowner – Matt Samson

- No changes to the lease program
- Lease fees are staying the same

Lease Camp Owners - John Morse

- No complaints from the leaseholders and the leaseholder association is reforming and rebuilding

Landowner Recreational Fees (per section RSA 12-A:b,V(f))

- No proposal for recreational fees

Other Business

Boat Launch Cleanup – Matt Samson/Dave DeGruttola

- Started a permit system for boats stored on the property last fall
- Boat clean up didn't start last fall, it will begin this summer again. Unpermitted boats will be taken off the property. Water-worthy will be brought to W Stewartstown, derelict boats will be disposed of.
- Stickers are issued through the office in W Stewartstown, no fee. 603-246-8800
- Land owner put a notice in the paper and signs up at the launches

ATV issues in the Community – Harry Brown

- Harry gave a short presentation about OHRV trails and issues in the area and his thoughts on how communities and agencies could work on solving some of the issues, including how a few might be solved by using the CLH.

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- Always ways to tweak plans to take care of a problem, the towns need help to keep the trail system in place
- State agencies needs to work cooperatively with the clubs.
- The Stewartstown selectmen have sent a letter.

Cohas Trail Association – Johanna Lyons

- Kim Nielson, Cohas Trail Association, sent a letter offering support to construct the Deer Mountain Trail and help maintain the fire tower area.
- Johanna thanked Kim and asked them to standby until we sort out the deferred road maintenance.

Budget – Chris Gamache

- Two-year state budget FY2020-2021 is now being reviewed by the Senate, there are some updates to be made now that the tractor contract has been negotiated.
- Road/Stewardship Endowment, land owner contribution sections also need updating
- Focus of the budget is to continue the work on the roads for the next two years
- No capital funds proposed for the CLH, some projects still being finished with a past appropriation

Tractor – Chris Gamache

- Tractor bids have been submitted, hoping to be on G&C agenda on June 1st meeting. August delivery date for the equipment.

Endowment Report – Johanna Lyons

- Report was sent to committee members in advance of the meeting.
- No questions or comments

Legislation - All

- Gene, suggests sending letters of support for funding or other purchases as part of the budgeting process

Presentation

Gene Chandler honored for the work he has done to support the state agencies.

Public Comment

- Staircase at Lake Francis blocked off, what is being done about it. Sandy replied, no immediate plan to rebuild it. No docks are allowed on Lake Francis. Should the staircase be removed, Sandy says yes it will be removed.
- Gene would like to thank Matt and LandVest for their management of the property.

Motion to adjourn, Harry seconded by Rick Sampson. 11:42

Respectfully Submitted, Johanna Lyons



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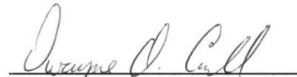



April 11, 2019


Dear Connecticut Lakes Headwater Citizen's Committee:

We, the Selectboard of Stewartstown, would appreciate your consideration in some of the access in the Deadwater area pertaining to connecting the A Loop and the Haynes Road. This would connect to some of our Class VI Roads lightening the load off some of the densely populated Town Class V Roads making a more scenic ride. These would be beneficial in connecting the surrounding towns to alleviate some of the heavy traffic off some of the Town Roads.

Sincerely,


Dwayne Covell


Allen Coats


James Gilbert
Stewartstown Selectboard

cc File