

CONNECTICUT LAKES HEADWATERS CITIZEN COMMITTEE OCTOBER 19, 2020

Due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor’s Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04 as extended pursuant to Executive Order 2020-18, this public body met electronically via Webex.

In Attendance:

Member	Appointed/Representing	Staff	Representing
Harry Brown	Governor & Council	Patrick Hackley	Div Forests & Lands
Hasen Burns	Town of Stewartstown	Johanna Lyons	Div Parks & Rec
Jim Gallagher	Dept Environmental Services	Sandy Young	Div Parks & Rec
Darrin Jock	Town of Pittsburg	Jill Kilborn	Fish & Game Dept
Richard Judd	Town of Pittsburg	David DeGuttola	LandVest
Charlie Levesque	Leaseholder Association		
Scott Mason	Fish & Game Department		
Sarah Stewart	Dept Natural & Cultural Resources		
Matt Sampson	Landowner, The Forestland Group		

Absent:

Ramon DeMaio, Town of Clarksville
 Richard Moquin, Speaker of the House, Monitoring Conservation Easements
 Gene Chandler, Speaker of the House, Forestry & Timber Harvesting
 Ken Hastings, President of the Senate, Recreation and Tourism
 Bing Judd, President of the Senate, Forest Ecology
 Gail Hanson, Governor and Council
 Rick Samson, Coos County Commissioners

Welcome and Introductions

Chairperson Gail Hanson was not able to conduct the meeting, Commissioner Stewart began the meeting by reading the Right to Know Script. Clerk Johanna Lyons read the roll and members acknowledged their attendance and location. Commissioner Stewart then lead the members and attendees in the pledge of allegiance.

Commissioner Stewart began the meeting by discussing the establishing a Finance sub-committee and asked Harry Brown to describe what the duties/responsibilities the sub-committee would tackle. Harry explained that the state’s responsibilities to the property are underfunded. He also speculated that the agencies may need legislative help to find the funding. There was discussion about including non-committee members, however, the consensus was that the sub-committee should be made up of committee members, however that should not preclude asking experts to participate. Harry Brown and Charlie Levesque volunteered to be part of the finance sub-committee, Matt Sampson offered to be part of the discussion and participate if needed. Commissioner Stewart encouraged committee members to reach out to Phil Bryce to start the conversation.

Minutes

Harry Brown motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Hasen Burns. There was no discussion, Johanna called the roll Charlie Levesque and Scott Mason abstained from the vote, all others accepted the minutes. NOTE: Clerk will change header meeting date.

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

- Commissioner Stewart acknowledged that a plan revision is due in 2021 and will ask Phil Bryce provide an outline of the process.
- Commissioner Stewart said there were no easement amendments planned.

Monitoring Compliance (per section RSA 12-A:9-b,V(a))

- Regional Forester Maggie Machinist was not able to attend the meeting. Dave DeGruttola reported that two monitoring visits were conducted in February and August of 2020. Jill Kilborn reported that monitoring was conducted by NHFG of the SMAs.
- Charlie Levesque requested that a monitoring report be shared at each meeting. Director Hackley will send the most recent report to the committee.

Public Recreational Use (per section RSA 12-A:9-b,V(b))

- Sandy Young reported that it was very busy in the area this summer.
- The roads saw more public traffic than usual; he had to put up more than usual signs warning about forestry management traffic.
- All the outhouses were closed due to Covid, saw an increase in human waste, but not too much.
- Dave DeGruttola is going to meet with the Cohos Trail Assn about the reroute from Coleman SP to the headwaters.
- The Deadwater loop is being graveled through a partnership with DNCR, DES and the ATV club.

State Park, Natural Area and Lake Francis Impoundment Management Update (per section RSA 12-A:9-b,V(c),(g), and (h))

- Jim Gallagher reported that DES has received many requests from camp owners to upgrade their camps; generally permission is granted as long as they meet shoreland protection permitting requirements. The Murphy Dam is undergoing inspections and repairs. Hoped to do it this fall but may have to wait until spring (must meet minimum flow requirements).
- Jill Kilborn reported that the 4th commercial wildlife habitat sale in the natural areas was conducted in the winter of 2019. NHFG has been working of upgrading and resurfacing roads (East Inlet, Scott Bog) and are currently mowing roadsides. A revision to the stewardship plan for the natural areas is being done starting with inventorying the property.
- Sandy Young reported that Deer Mountain Campground was closed for the 2020 camping season and Lake Francis was operating at 50% for most of the season due to Covid. The dock stairs have been removed and we are working to permitting a replacement.

Lease Camps (per section RSA 12-A:9-b,V(b),(e), and (h))

- Matt Sampson reported that lease rates remained the same as last year. There are approximately 8 sites still available, he is not going out to bid for the sites, but will accept proposals.

Land Owner Recreational Fees (per section RSA 12-A:9-b,V(f))

- No proposal

Other Business

- Landowner Update: Matt Sampson said operations conditions were good, however, markets are not good. They picked stands that there were markets. LandVest is finishing a timber reinventory. Created 40 acres of early successional habitat off the Smith Brook Road. Updating the 10 year Forest Management Plan.
 - Harry Brown asked about the sale of the property. Matt Sampson replied that they did not get offers as needed and there is no purchase and sales agreement for the property.
- ATV Use: Charlie Levesque reported that illegal ATV use is on the rise. People disregarded the prohibition signs. Charlie spoke to riders on upper Indian Stream Rd who said they did not see the sign. Need an enforcement plan and larger signs. Illegal camping was going on also.
 - Matt Sampson asked if the camping was RVs, car camping or backpackers? Charlie replied mostly car camping off the side of the road. Jill Kilborn reported similar on the Natural Areas and thinks it may have been caused by the closure of Deer Mountain and people not checking ahead of their arrival.
 - Harry Brown supported installing larger signs and asked Executive Director Mason for an enforcement plan. Mr. Mason will meet with staff and share.
- Gate Policy/Roy Road: Harry Brown asked what the policy of allowing US government employees through the Roy Road gate. There was general discussion and reference to the minutes of June 7, 2014 when Bill Carpenter briefed the committee.
 - Commissioner Stewart will ask the AGs office to review the gate and access.
 - Sandy Young reported that local EMS has keys to the gate if they need to respond to emergencies.
- Commercial Signage: Harry Brown asked about the policy allowing commercial signage on the property. Johanna Lyons did some research and pointed to sections 2.K, 3.G and 5.S of the easement which indicate that commercial signage is not permitted and all signage needs to be approved by the landowner or easement holder. Specifically the signage in question is the Polaris sponsored directional signage at intersections.
 - Commissioner Stewart will ask Phil Bryce and the Trails Bureau for more details on the signage and its approval. She will also ask for them to draft a policy on what's appropriate.
 - Richard Judd remarked that the signs aren't appropriate on the CLH but are ok on the Perry Stream trail system.
- Roads: Sandy Young was asked to give a quick roads update... staff and the landowner were able to pull together to keep the roads in good shape this year but need to discuss where we are and the future.
- Meetings: Charlie Levesque requests that we meet more than once a year and if it has to be once, then the spring meeting is the more important meeting.

Adjournment

Hasen Burns motioned to adjourn the meeting, Harry Brown seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 6:35pm.

Respectfully submitted, Johanna Lyons, clerk