

**Connecticut Lakes Headwaters Citizens Committee Meeting
December 9, 2016
Pittsburg Fire Station**

In Attendance:

Harry Brown	Steve Ellis	Dick Moquin
Gene Chandler	Jim Gallagher	Jeff Rose
Merrill Dalton	Ken Hastings	Matt Sampson
Ramon DeMaio	Bing Judd	Rick Samson
Paul Doscher	John Morse	John Wimsatt

Chairman Judd opened the meeting at 10 am and asked members and public to introduce themselves.

Acceptance of the minutes

May 21, 2016 – CLHCC Meeting
June 20, 2016 – ATV Subcommittee Meeting
June 30, 2016 – Road Subcommittee Meeting
September 28, 2016 – Road Subcommittee Meeting

Motion to accept the minutes by Harry Brown and seconded by Dick Moquin. None opposed

Report of ATV subcommittee - Chris Gamache

- The committee met 6/20 and reviewed the proposal of GNW riders.
- Evaluated the request for the next 5 years.
- Full support to continue the route that is open today
- Full support to discuss extending operating hours in the future
- Split on whether to extend the season, landowner, the Fish and Game Department and town of Clarksville had reservations.
- Split on adding another designated route Coon Brook to Magalloway Road
- Support unanimously to make some short connections over to First Connecticut Lake Businesses.

Steve Ellis: What first lake businesses want to connect? Chris Gamache: Ramblewood, Treats & Treasures. There is a route that landowners have agreed for snowmobiles but not ATVs.

Harry Brown: He understood that the ATV club had negotiated with the landowner. Darren Jock: the ATV club has spoken to landowners & there is support.

Report of the Road Sub-Committee – Phil Bryce

6/30 Road cost and revenue were reviewed. Major conclusion was that we should go to the AGs office to see if the Stewardship monies can be used on the roads. The AG office agreed we could use the funds provided that we use them for recreational access.

7/21 Meeting: Road conditions and next steps were discussed.

Harry Brown: John Steward had some additional thoughts on the roads. Phil: let's discuss when we get to that part of the agenda.

Plan Revision and Easement Amendment – Johanna Lyons & Phil Bryce

Overview - Johanna Lyons

There were 30 attendees at the outreach session in Pittsburg; the discussion centered on road management, the endowments and to a lesser extent, recreational improvements. There were 5 attendees at the outreach session in Concord; three attendees were interested in equestrian use. There were few written comments received that have been distributed to you. Many of the commenters are here today.

Conservation history, Plan requirements & Amendment - Phil Bryce

- Most of the comments and concerns are about the nature of the property & what we should do and how work with the CLH landowner to accomplish the work.
- Original draft went out and in response to some concerns it now has options and recommendations to spur deliberation, discussion and get input.
- Taking a look back to Steering Committee Report; Vision of the use of the property... continuing to provide economic, recreation, natural resource benefits. To achieve this the following were recommended:
 - Easement cover the whole property
 - Timber harvesting
 - Public permanent rights
 - Maintain vehicular access
 - Include monitoring
- Maintaining vehicular access is important to providing public access to the property, a major point to the AGs office. However, stewardship funds could only be used on road projects that benefit public recreational access; not to be used to work on roads for timber harvests.
- Topics to discuss
 - Confirming we want to use the stewardship endowment for maintenance & repair of roads
 - Degree to which we improve the property for recreational use; want this property to look like it has always been, not like a park. How do we address the increase in visitorship and recreation demands of the property? How much money to we put in and what types of improvements we put in the property.
 - Boats: maintain the traditional use and manage as it should be managed & address and concerns that the landowner has.
 - ATV proposal
 - Road Management, particularly mowing road side: purchase equipment v. contacted v. leased
- Gene suggests using Stewardship reserve funds to use the funds for roads & recreational purposes. Everything we do needs to focus on getting the roads back in shape.
- The committee endorses using the stewardship funds for the maintenance the roads.
- Mowing was identified as the most important road management issue.
 - \$300,000 in the reserve
 - Leave \$120,000 in reserve
 - Appropriate \$150,000 to specific projects to address deferred maintenance
 - Purchase equipment to use for mowing and other use at a moment's notice (without having to go into contracts)

- 5 year & 10 year analysis... equipment should last 20 years
 - All analysis is mowing the same amount across all scenarios
 - Harry Brown: Why not lease? Phil Bryce: will have to set aside the funding either way. Trying to avoid using the annual endowment for lease payments.
 - Dick Moquin: The \$150,000 will be used either way for the roads... if we own then it is available for other purpose. Rental may be used for the same way.
 - Paul Doscher: Staff will not mow for 12 months a year but can be used 12 months a year. Have the ability to use the equipment at any time is an advantage.
 - Contracted Mowing: $\$66,300 = 51\text{miles/year} \times \$1,300$
 - Matt Sampson: There are other avenues to respond swiftly, one is to use CLH landowner's funds with credit against the landowner road contribution.
 - Bing Judd: I did some research on tractors, there are two different types of attachments, if in the back then you can put a bucket on the front, if it is a mid-mount then you can't use a bucket.
 - Sandy Young: Rental is only going to be 40 hours... can't run it for 50. Mow for 16 weeks.
 - Matt Sampson: If purchased and owned by the state ~~and~~ it can't be used on other properties? Phil: correct.
 - John Wimsatt: It is an extensive road system and it makes sense to own the equipment to maintain the road system. Value in the tractor is more than to just mow the roads. Too hard to contract.
 - Gene Chandler: I agree the purchase is the best way to go. The best way to put money in the roads is to use the annual endowment revenue to make payments.
 - Bing Judd: A 100hp tractor to rent to own has a 3.5-4% interest... pay almost as much again in interest. Prefers having the mower boom in the mid-mount for safety purposes. Rough quote \$125-130,000 without bucket.
 - Paul Doscher: Motion to recommend to buy the equipment for mowing, Dick Moquin seconds it.
 - Harry – He states he'd vote against the motion or can he amend it. We are so lacking funds to take care of the roads. Whether or not from an accounting standpoint you pay for it from operating funds or endowment. Allows you to put an additional \$120,000 in the roads if you pay for it with the annual endowment appropriation.
 - Gene Chandler: The money we don't use gains interest.
 - Matt Sampson: What is the critical need of the immediate \$120,000 left over; don't want to pay interest but what is the degradation that will occur if we don't do projects now.
 - Paul Doscher: Other improvements are being proposed for repair of bridges.
 - Harry Brown: We are \$5million dollars short over the next 10 years.
 - Gene Chandler: Amend the motion to support lease-purchase for 5 years. Over a 5 year period. Harry seconds it.

- Lease to Purchase 11, opposed 3.
- Review of Stewardship budget
 - Most of the stewardship annual funding is going towards operation and maintenance of the equipment.

ATV Proposal

(Action) Alternative A: No additional trails except the connector as outlined in the 2012 amendment. Committee supports this.

(Action) Alternative B: Discontinue the designation of alternative trails. Matt Sampson: currently the alternative trails are being viewed as options for additional trails. Logging may need other alternatives not identified. The Landowner will meet the trail system needs while working with the Trails Bureau.

- Landowner and State need to agree to upgrade the exit points to a designated road if ATV access is needed.
- John Steward: No need to pre-designate alternative trails, we can wait and see. This year ATV use and logging trucks used the same route without conflict.
- Gene Chandler: I would suggest that we adopt (action) alternative B as is, it is the alternative approved in 2012.
- Dick Moquin motioned to adopt alternative B and Paul Doscher seconded. All in favor

(Action) Alternative C: Season

- Chris Gamache: Subcommittee supported times but not a clear direction of season.
- Harry Brown motions to (action) alternative C as presented, not seconded... discussion; season closing date – ATV has brought economic drive to the county. The headwaters is the access point to Pittsburg from other trail systems. The current trail is on the southernmost part of the property. Pittsburg has the most capacity of lodging in the area. Rules are hard to enforce with the variability throughout the ATV system. Make it so the rider can easily abide by the law. John Wimsatt: Other trails systems have variability. Feels strongly that extending the season will impact other core constituency (hunters/fisher), it is a resource capacity for accident coverage, landowner issues, and to balance multi-user recreationalists. Dick: opposed extending the time, give everybody their turn. Ramon DiMaio: Town of Clarksville opposes extending ATV season into October. Bear and deer season occurs during this time period. Matt Sampson: Stands with F&G. Steve Ellis: The consistency with the rest of the system is supported.
- Harry Brown: motion to extend the season to close the Tuesday after Columbus Day, Merrill Dalton seconded. Chris Gamache: There are 5 parties who implement this decision; CLH landowner, Town of Clarksville, DRED, Town of Pittsburg, PSLT... Ken Hastings: I am a bird hunter and think a brief period of closure between seasons is a good practice. Gene Chandler: The basic foundation for conservation of this property was to maintain traditional uses & now we are taking a non-traditional use that affects a traditional use. Harry Brown: the economy has changed in 15 years; not logging, not hunting, its recreation (snowmobiling & ATV). Steve Ellis: Never had an issue once a road has been open for ATV use that it would have to close it again. Rick Samson: Need to have all the parties to agree. Matt Sampson: I would entertain to sit down with F&G to discuss a special use weekend for Columbus Day only, not extending for the full two week period, but defined time period of 3 days for holiday weekend-period. VOTE: 4 in favor, 8 against.
- Time of day: John Wimsatt: A DRED rule sets the time for operation from a half-hour before sunrise to half-hour after sunset. All DOT crossing permits adopt the DRED rule. Fish & Game supports one fixed time statewide. Dick Moquin: Motion follow the

statewide time, Paul seconded. There was a split vote to extend the time after sunset, but support for a consistent time.

- First Connecticut Lake business connection: Motion to endorse further discussion with landowner and abutting landowners, endorsed by the committee.
- Boat Storage: Gene Chandler & Dick Moquin support to establish a committee to study the issue. John Wimsatt: F&G has administrative rules to address derelict boats. Matt Sampson: I have been asking for a process not to deal with the public trash. Easements for the dams are complete and should be used for storage on the state easement areas. Paul Doscher: Motion to remove derelict boats and have to have names & addresses/registration on them and set up a subcommittee to discuss boat management, Matt Sampson seconded. See Alt A (d) all in favor.
- Phil Bryce: The balance between public use and stewardship; what about the recreational improvements if we have other funds to do the improvements. How do we sustainably manage the public use so it does not degrade the visitor experience or environment? Look forward to discussing this more in future.

Monitoring Compliance – Maggie Machinist

Everything was fine

Public & Recreational Use – Sandy Young

Great North Woods stewards did work on Deer Mtn. SCA did work at Little Hellsgate Falls & Magalloway. Paul Doscher asked about the Magalloway trail condition and future funding.

State Park, Natural Area and Lake Francis Impoundment Management

Jim Gallagher: TransCanada sale is a concern and working with them.

Lease Camps

Matt: Bid out 13 camp lot license sites, licensed 6, 7 sites still available. Got several requests after the original bid went out so in 2017 will put out another solicitation.

Other Business

None

Public Comment

None

Motion to adjourn Ken Hastings, seconded by Steve Ellis, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 12:50pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Johanna Lyons

Accepted at the May 6, 2017 meeting