

Connecticut Lakes Headwaters Citizens Committee
RSA 12-A:9-b
September 19, 2015 - 10:00 am
Pittsburg Ridge Runners Clubhouse

In attendance: Bing Judd, Jeff Rose, Steve Ellis, Harry Brown, Dick Moquin, Merrill Dalton, Ramon DiMaio, Jill Kilborn (for Glenn Normandeau), Gene Chandler, Jim Gallagher, Rick Samson, John Steward and Ron Hughes.

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. Resignation – Jennifer Landry, Town of Pittsburg
 - b. Appointment – Steve Ellis, Town of Pittsburg
 - c. Reappointed members – Dick Moquin, Gene Chandler, Harry Brown
 - i. Ron Hughes is seeking reappointment at the Leaseholder Association annual meeting in October.
3. Acceptance of minutes from June 7, 2014 meeting
 - a. Ron Hughes motion to accept the minutes of June 7, 2014 as written, Seconded by Steve Ellis, all approved.
4. Monitoring Compliance (per section RSA 12-A:9-b, V (a))
 - a. FY 2014 Endowment Report – there were no questions about the monitoring report that was sent earlier this spring.
5. Public Recreational Use (per section RSA 12-A:9-b, V (b))
 - a. Public Use and Recreation Management – Sandy Young handed out the CLH 2015 AOP that was submitted to the landowner in April and provided an update to the committee on the projects. He also handed out the 2014 road summary of work accomplished and money spent. It was noted that the substantial increase in 2014 was due to capital budget funding that was appropriated in the 2014/2015 biennium.
 - b. ATV Subcommittee & ATV use – Chris Gamache reported that the ATV subcommittee met in July 2014 to discuss the extension of the riding season to Columbus Day. No one knew how the riding would impact the bird hunters or other recreationalists. Chris recommended a survey of resort owners to see if their business could use extra guests in September. Chris reported he road most of the roads in the southern section of the CLH property and found them to be in good shape.
 - i. In response to a question about ridership Chris reported that registrations are up statewide and riders are coming to the northern trail system rather than staying south. Registrations this year are at 26,000 up from 22,000.
 - ii. There seems to be a disconnect between marketing and available trails and will meet with the OHRV coalition about the “Ride the Wilds” messaging.
 - iii. Harry Brown asked if there are any counters on the property. Chris replied that there were however one was lost and the other has some technical issues and the data collected can’t be retrieved.

- iv. Harry Brown asked that the minutes from the next sub-committee meeting be distributed to the CLHCC members.
 - v. In a question about the Trail Patrol question, Chris reported that a training session was held by the bureau in 2014 and the GNW Riders held another training. The clubs report at the end of the year. There is no record on how many hours spent specifically on the headwaters property.
 - vi. John Steward reported that he is seeing ATV activity off trail from Town Roads and they are working with law enforcement.
 - vii. Harry Brown noted that the signage is too small and in his experience, people not familiar with the trail miss the prohibited signs. Chris said all the signage meets the international standards for OHRV trails.
 - viii. Ron Hughes has received requests to allow camp owners who are not directly on-trail but nearby to access the network. He suggested a special permit or some other way to identify them. This topic will be brought up in Rec Plan revision planned for 2017
 - ix. Steve Ellis introduced John LeBlanc, Chief of Police in Pittsburg
6. State Park, Natural Area and Lake Francis Impoundment Management Update (per section RSA 12-A:9-b, V (c), (g) and (h))
- a. DES management of roads and timber – Bing Judd reported that he and Jim Gallagher are going on a site visit to take a look at the Lake Francis boat launch and the roads today. Discussion was also had about timber management. Jim Gallagher explained that he is challenged by limited forester resources to plan and bid the sale. There is approximately 200 acres that has been planned to be cut for a decade.
 - b. NHFG update – Bing Judd asked that Jill Kilborn give an update on the natural area roads and timber management.
 - i. The road to boundary pond is in disrepair. There were plans to address maintenance this year, however, the budget continuing resolution delayed the work. Bridge work has been done over 3 years with an \$87,000 grant from the 15 mile Falls mitigation fund. It will cost about \$100,000 to resurface, reditch & replace culverts for the whole road.
 - ii. To piggy back on a logging operation by the landowner, upgrade to Indian Stream road are continuing so forest management can occur. DRED foresters are in the process of tallying the sale and should put it out to bid shortly.
 - iii. Bing Judd asked when the Brown & Grey lots adjacent to the headwaters property will be cut? Jill Kilborn replied there is a lack of state forestry staff in the north country to layout and bid the project.
7. Plan Revisions and Easement Amendment (per section RSA 12-A:9-b, V (d))
- a. Plan Update 2017-2021 – Johanna Lyons handed out an outline for the 2017 plan revision. The consensus of the committee is that the 2007 plan does not have to be rewritten, just updated. The plan must comply with the easement and be approved by the landowner. Johanna reported that she and Sandy use the plan all the time to check on management proposals and actions.
 - i. Phil Bryce, Director of the Division of Parks and Recreation, suggested that more monitoring of public use is needed for the update to gain a

understanding of how use has changed in 10 years and to determine if there is pressure between groups.

- ii. Dick Moquin suggest an exit survey of users as they come off the property to find out what they did and how was their experience.

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

- a. Update on approved 15 new lease sites – John Steward reported all but two leases have been sited. He and Maggie Machinist are going out in early October to look at the sites and finalize them. There is a list of people who are interested in them and the landowner is considering bidding out the leases.
- b. John Steward also reported that they will be logging off Indian Stream this winter and need to build new roads to get at some areas. They will be logging the roaring brook area.
- c. When asked about the condition of the forest, John Steward replied that there is a lot of young stands, they are improving the stands as pulp wood cuts. Markets are down for both pulp and hardwood.

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

- a. Not applicable

10. Other Business

- a. Gene Chandler – Newspapers complained to him that the notice of the meeting was not sent out early enough to meet their deadlines. He also requested that all handout be distributed prior to the meeting so there is time to review.
- b. Rick Samson – The responsibility of the CLHCC is to protect the headwaters and for two years the Northern Pass issue has not been addressed by the advisory board.
 - i. Do we need to address the issue of the Northern Pass crossing the headwaters either overhead or underground?
 - ii. Do we need to discuss the possibility of a land swap with Northern Pass for headwaters land?
- c. Bing Judd said that if the Northern Pass project, once the route is proposed, impacts the headwaters property, he will call a meeting immediately.

11. Public Comment – None

At 11:25 a motion to adjourn was moved by Harry Brown and seconded by Ron Huges, all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted, Johanna Lyons