

**Connecticut Lakes Headwater Citizens Committee  
Meeting Summary  
October 24, 2008  
Pittsburg Fire Station**

**In Attendance:** Bing Judd, Paul Doscher, Ron Hughes, Beverly Lord, Michael Pearson, Dick Moquin, Merrill Dalton, Steve Weber, Sean Ross and George Bald.

**Members Absent:** Glenn Merrill, Jean Burrill, Hasen Burns, and Pat Merrill.

**Others present:** Chris Gamache, Chief of Trails, John Morse, Don Tase, Armand Buteau, Keith Landry, Wayne Howe, Maggie Machinist, Forests & Lands, John Accardi, Forests & Lands, Sandy Young, Parks, Paul A. Bergeron, Dave Faulkenham, Forests & Lands and Armand Buteau.

Chairman Bing Judd called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. A motion to accept the minutes of March 24, 2007 was moved by Ron Hughes and seconded by Michael Pearson. There were no corrections and they were accepted as written.

**State Park Update** – Sandy Young reported that he and Johanna Lyons have met with two recreational user groups, equestrians and the Cohos Trail Association. He has also met with the ATV club. He expects a proposal from the ATV club soon. The equestrian user group still hasn't organized. The Cohos Trail Assn is still working off the property and getting ready to link up, a proposal may come soon. Road maintenance and upgrades have been ongoing, with all the rain it has been a struggle but he feels they are gaining.

Chairman Judd asked the status of the Perry Pond Gate which is managed by the Fish and Game Department. The road has been upgraded but motorized public access is prohibited beyond the gate. Steve Weber replied that the easement prohibits motorized use beyond the gate. The road upgrades has allowed easier access by the Department for management. A discussion began about public access to public lands. Dick Moquin expressed that he feels that some places should be kept wild and isn't concerned about the gate being closed, you can still walk in. Ron Hughes didn't believe any property owned by the state should exclude access.

Sandy Young pointed out that the Division needs to consult with the committee about the roads and spring time is when the Annual Operation Plan and Road Management Agreement are developed. The committee agreed to meet in the spring (May) to review the plan for the season. A discussion about the process to review and approve new recreational uses was begun. Johanna Lyons referred the committee to the Public Access and Recreation management plan and the process outlined there. If there is a proposal to react to it will be presented at a scheduled meeting or if necessary the committee could convene to consider. Sandy Young also informed the committee that some monies from the Stewardship Endowment have been spent to put up kiosk and signs.

**Land Owner Update** – Sean Ross representing reported that the Lyme Timber Company is considering selling the Connecticut Lakes Timber Company. They have reached out to dozens of potential buyers. The process could take 6-9 months if a suitable buyer is found. This is not a must sell situation but would like to sell offer. Dick Moquin asked is a stock sale is an option and Sean Ross replied it is. Sean Ross pointed out that all the restrictions on the property would stay in place and they are only selling the right to own and manage timber resources. Ron Hughes asked if it is possible that a new buyer could chose not to harvest timber. Sean Ross replied that yes it is possible, there is nothing in the easement that requires the owner to cut but it is implied that it will be. Paul Doscher pointed out that not foresting may violate the purpose of the easement and the state may elect to challenge it in court. Steve Weber asked what is the term of the Stewardship Plan? Sean Ross replied that it is 2005-2015 and a new buyer would have to follow the plan until an amendment is submitted. George Bald pointed out that the State of New Hampshire has the right of first refusal and the option to match an offer forever, not just at the time of this sale.

**General Discussion** – Chairman Bing Judd wanted to have a general discussion on a few topics.

ATV – Even though earlier discussion mentioned the Division meeting with the ATV club Bing Judd and Ron Hughes felt as though ATV use is a good use of the property and would like to see a connector trail established. Dick Moquin expressed the thought that ATV use could displace other users who like peace and quiet, especially hunters and fishermen and would have to be carefully placed. Paul Doscher expressed a concern about having the ATVs and cars on the same roads and careful planning would have to take place. In the past a community enforcement contract was awarded to Pittsburg Police Department, however, Steve Weber reported the ATV enforcement contracts program was at risk during the last budget process, but that it was rescued and is still an active program. NHF&G would be interested in receiving a proposal from the Town if desired.

Camp Leases – Ron Hughes reported that the Association held its annual meeting a few weeks ago. Approximately seven camps have been broken into. Chief LaPlante sent a letter to the annual meeting with tips on how to secure the camps. The members would like to see more surveillance of the camps; they pay taxes and demand few services. Ron Hughes asked Sean Ross the status of the remaining 15 new leases. Sean Ross replied that they had hoped to have the proposal ready for this meeting but did not have it ready, should be ready for the spring meeting.

Road Rally – Bing Judd reported attending the rally in Success this summer. There were approximately 500 attendees. The event organizers graded the road before and after the race. Steve Weber asked Johanna Lyons if this was a prohibited use according to the recreation plan. Johanna Lyons replied that it is not specifically a prohibited use, but would require a special use permit and it may not meet the evaluation criteria.

Big Bog Brook Dam – Now that the work is complete, some public comment has been received. There a large boulders blocking the dam with a chain between them which is a trip hazard. Sandy has met with CLTC, NHF&G and DES to figure out how to make it easier to launch car top boats. Some permitting may be needed. He hopes to have resolution by spring.

**Public Comment**

Paul Bergeron – The snowmobile season is coming and hopes for a good season.  
Armand Boteau – Every time some new mandate is put on the State agencies it diminishes there other goals, especially NHF&G and ATV enforcement. Another model needs to be considered. Economic Development is suffering because capacity isn't there. He would like to see a destination oriented way of getting out of town on an ATV.

Paul Bergeron – As a lodge owner, peace and tranquility is a positive benefit but hunters/fishers in the area are way down so there is a need to make up the gap with other uses.

There was no other public comment or discussion, George Bald moved to adjourn at 11:20 am, and was seconded by Ron Hughes. All approved.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Johanna Lyons  
Division of Parks and Recreation