

Adopted 092722

Connecticut Lakes Headwater Citizens Committee  
Recreation Sub-Committee Meeting  
Pittsburg Ridge Runners Clubhouse  
August 25, 2022

In Attendance: Charlie Levesque (chair), Harry Brown, Jill Kilborn, Eric Stohl, Richard Judd, Darrin Jock and Johanna Lyons (clerk/planner)

The meeting began at 10:00am and the Chair requested that members introduce themselves and who they represent on the committee.

There was a general discussion about how to proceed with the recreation/public use plan. Three options were discussed;

1. Incorporate the 2012 & 2017 amendments into the 2007 plan and submit to the landowner for adoption for the next five years.
2. Incorporate the 2012 & 2017 amendments into the 2007 plan and release for public comment with submission to the landowner by the end of the year.
3. Incorporate the 2012 & 2017 amendments into the 2007 plan and submit to the landowner with a timeline for public outreach and updating in 2023.

Jill asked what would the process look like? Johanna responded, much like the previous outreach and comment efforts such as facilitated public workshop, tech team, CLHCC listening session.

Johanna remarked that over the 20 years of management not much has changed. There are a few secondary recreational uses that need to be described in the plan in order to be allowed. Many of the primary uses are already permitted by the easement with few restrictions.

The committee looked at the issues list from the 12/8/21 meeting... let Johanna know if there are issues to research (easement/RSAs) before the October meeting to be prepared.

- Back country snowmobiling – Snowmobiling is only permitted on “designated snowmobile trails” as described in the baseline documentation per the easement (5.A.v). This map highlights most of the roads and new trails anticipated to be constructed in 2001.
- Horses – already permitted and there was a working group, but they have disbanded.
- Motorcycles/Enduro Bikes – if registered for road use, they are allowed by the easement like other registered motor vehicles, not allowed if only registered as OHRVs.
  - NOTE: did we determine if they are allowed on the ATV trails as a registered OHRV?
- ATVs & bicycles – Section 5.A.iv.b states that the easement holder shall have the right to permit... “All Terrain Vehicles and mechanized vehicles, including bicycles, on the Designated Roads provided that 1. Such use and locations of such use are permitted under the Public Access and Recreational Use Management Plan and 2. Any repairs necessary... are made.”

Draft Plan dated 5/12/22

- Charlie handed out an outline of what is required in the plan.

- The 5/12/22 draft plan is just the requirements, the property background, legal authorities, partnerships, etc. are well described in the 2007 plan.
- This document incorporated the policies adopted in the 2012 and 2017 amendments.
- The tasks were not carried forward – for example the ATV action items from the 2017 amendment (section 3.4.5.5, action e on page 9).
  - NOTE: should we get a report of status of actions for the CLHCC meeting?
- Charlie reported that the landowner supports additional hiking trails and linkages and noted there is increased interest of single-track mountain bike trails (only allowed on roads per easement).

#### Issues to Bring Forward to CLHCC

- ATV use on selected roads to connect the First Lake businesses to the trail system, connect to Maine and to create a loop (Magalloway, Deadwater, Cedar Stream). Much the same as proposed in the 2017 plan amendment. Darrin volunteered to work with the club to develop a map and description.
- The easement requires this use to be adopted in the plan, however, the landowner has approval of the plan.
- Three management issues were discussed; capacity of the trail system, maintenance of the roads open to ATV use and enforcement of OHRV RSAs. The following are ideas and may need legislative change to existing statutes or amendment of current statutes.
  - Road Maintenance
    - Additional fee on registrations to support the trail system
    - User fee for ATVs collected by DPR (Eric felt strongly that hunters/fishers/general road use secured by the \$10million by the state, maybe they pay something, but not as much)
    - Fee paid to the club (as part of membership) and donated to the state for maintenance
    - Unrefunded state gas tax for off-highway use
    - Rooms & Meals
    - RTP/GIA
    - Tillotson and other grants, acknowledged that grants are good for specific projects, not general operations & maintenance
  - Enforcement
    - Acknowledgement that NHFG is spread thin with vacancies and takes focus off their primary mission to enforce hunting and fishing laws.
    - Trails Bureau staff used to be law enforcement... is there a way to hire staff for this need? What are the RSAs that allow this?
    - Even though the Stonegarden grants have been helpful, there is still a staff issue, the existing staff is taken from primary duties.
    - New agency created to enforce OHRV laws
    - Should the Sheriff's department be the lead? This would be part of the county budget.

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#### Other Business

- Concern about the sale of Perry Stream's property, majority of the Pittsburg trail system located on the property. A town working group has been put together to discuss options
- Harry mentioned the recent NHOHVA economic impact study (attached).
- Johanna also suggested the 2001 Pittsburg Tourism study (attached) be updated to see what economic impact the ATVs and other recreation has had on the community.

#### Next steps

- Schedule another sub-com meeting to discuss ATV and other recreation proposals.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00pm

Respectfully Submitted, Johanna Lyons, DNCR committee clerk