

**Nash Stream Citizens Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2002**

Present: Fred King, Peter Benson, Sylvia Bates, Mary Sloat, Dave Tellman, Scott Mason, Dayton Goudie, Dave Publicover, Everett Frizzell, Phil Stearns, Philip Bryce, Rita Goumillout, John Lanier, Dave Goulet

Staff: Tom Miner, Susan Francher, Bob MacGregor

Opening

Chairman Tellman welcomed everyone and introduced Sylvia Bates who will be the representative from New Hampshire Audubon.

Old Business

Minutes: The minutes of September 25 were not approved at the last meeting, as there was not a quorum present at the meeting. Frizzell made a motion to accept the minutes of September 25, 2001. Sloat seconded the motion. The minutes were approved. Goulet made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 8, 2001 meeting. King seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Report of the ATV Study Subcommittee

The committee met once for approximately 1.5 hours. There was no interest in having a second meeting. Initially 2 trails were under consideration, a connecting trail "West Side Trail" and a larger, self-contained interior trail. The committee felt it was premature to consider the interior trail and concentrated on the connecting trail. The committee felt the West Side Trail could be put in service as an ATV trail with little work. There is a section that will need to be rerouted around a beaver flowage but the majority of the proposed trail runs along an existing trail, a portion of which is an old gravel-based road. Two of the committee members voted against this project, the remainder of the committee members voted in favor of moving forward with development of this trail as a pilot ATV trail project. The length of the trail segment that will be on Nash Stream is approximately 7 miles and would connect existing ATV trails on private land.

Tellman asked Bryce to review the current actions being considered by the State Legislature. Bryce reported that Rep Alger and the ATV study committee submitted legislation regarding ATV use on public land that includes increased registration fees, allows for acquisition of land for the purpose of developing ATV trails, allows for contracting with local law enforcement to help enforce ATV laws, codifies the criteria developed by DRED regarding location of ATV trails on state lands, and provides for the establishment of an ATV trail at Nash Stream. While this legislation has not yet passed it is a clear indication of the direction legislative study committee is heading.

Motion: Mason motions to open the West Side Trail for ATV use and amend Nash Stream Management Plan as necessary. King seconds.

Discussion: King says decision is up to Commissioner Bald.

Frizzell feels this motion is not necessary.

Goulet feels the motion is inappropriate.

Mason feels King is being nice, he thinks legislature is saying to agencies; get off your duff and open Nash Stream to public use. Asks Lanier what his concerns about ATV use are.

Lanier answers that ATV use is year-round and that affects "critters" breeding season.

Questions about whether ATV use will be year-round.

Bryce suggests that before the vote you go through the proposed changes to the management plan.

King withdraws second of the motion.

Benson feels we are not just talking about Nash Stream and that what happens here can affect all public lands in New Hampshire.

Mason feels the only issue for this committee is Nash Stream, not Bear Brook or other State lands.

End of Discussion

Miner talks about Management Plan changes.

King asks about funding for strategies, Miner answers that plan says things will be done as funding becomes available.

Bates asks if changes are consistent with Conservation Easement. Miner says yes.

Motion: Sloat makes motion to accept changes in Strategy Updates (brown sheets). Goulet seconds.

Discussion: Benson says all additions should be annotated.

Publicover feels the Department should keep a record of the annotated changes.

King feels that the Committee Appointment Process should be in the plan.

minority report on ATV's libels Fred King and that the two organizations (Nature Conservancy and Appalachian Mountain Club) are being obstructionists.

Discussion of the Public Use Guidelines (blue sheets)

Stearns would like to see bear baiting allowed.

Discussion of bear baiting ensued.

King says that in the interest of time committee should e-mail staff their comments on Rules sheet; subsequent meeting will go over rule changing.

Discussion of Recreation Management Guidelines (Yellow Sheets)

Discussion focused on the length of time of ATV pilot project.

Goulet thought that we should have only summer time ATV usage.

Wording will be worked on to minimize snowmobile and ATV confrontations.

Sloat wonders if speed limit could be lower on Nash Stream, Bryce says that is the purpose of the pilot project.

Motion: Sloat makes motion for 3-year time frame for ATV pilot project, Goulet seconds.

Bryce wonders how much money is going to be sunk into the trail.

Suggestion for line 20 to read "or not continue".

Mason wonders if 3 years is long enough for Fish and Game to study breeding populations.

When will 3 year clock start, from first day of usability?

Bryce and Benson feel clock should start when groundwork starts.

Lanier says he needs one season without machines to gather base-line data.

Stearns says change 3 years to 5 years.

Amendment: At end of 3 years the Commissioner of DRED has the ability to renew, revoke or continue the pilot process for an additional 2 years.

Sloat withdraws original motion, King moves to accept amendment language as motion, Stearns seconds.