

NASH STREAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE SEPTEMBER 25, 2001

Present: Rita Goumillout, Everett Frizzell, Dave Publicover, Phil Stearns, Bill Simpson, Dave Tellman, Fred King, Jay Espy, Dayton Goudie, Dave Goulet & Scott Mason.

Staff: Tom Miner, Susan Francher, Phil Bryce, Will Staats and Bob MacGregor

14 members of the public.

Tellman introduce Jay Espy, new member replacing John Kauffmann and Fred King representing the Coos County Planning Board.

May 31, 2001 Minutes approved, King abstaining.

August 22, 2001 Minutes approved, King abstaining

Tellman spoke to John McIlwaine, who has personal concerns and will no longer be able to represent The Audubon Society of New Hampshire on the Committee.

Francher talked about strategies for Forest Plan Revision, then did a quick overview of revision and amendment process for the plan including time line, she outlined role of the committee, which is mainly local outreach.

Tellman looks for a motion to support the process as outlined by Francher and proposed at the August meeting.

MOTION(# 1): Approve the proposed Nash Stream Revision Process as outlined in a time frame of no more than 11½ months.

DISCUSSION: King questions the time frame, feels even the State budget process only takes six months.

Goulet says that with public hearing it will take a long time.

King still feels it can be done quicker and that the plan has been out for six years and needs revision. He feels lack of planning for revision was weakness of the original plan.

Simpson says the Commissioner won't approve ATV use at Nash Stream because he doesn't want to step on this committee's toes.

Frizzell asks about what the Federal role is in determination of suitability for ATV's. He would also like to know where the proposed trails would go on the property.

Goulet asks if the Plan says no ATV's.

Tellman says yes (page 129 of Plan) and opening up the Plan could invite all sorts of tinkering by various interests.

King asks if the Federal Easement limits ATV use?

Miner describes Federal Easement, he says the State does not feel the Federal Easement restricts ATV use and the State has sent a letter to the White Mountain Forest Supervisor asking for clarification.

King feels that the time frame should be amended so that the first of June is the deadline.

Miner stated that Commissioner Bald has said no new trails on State land until Legislative Committee formed by HB717 is done with their work and has made their recommendations.

King talked about linkage between Nash Stream and International Paper land for sale in Pittsburg.

Tellman describes committee's history on the ATV subject.

Publicover thinks that providing a revision process that works is important because other issues will come forward in the future.

Frizzell wonders if we can only open up plan for just the three specific issues we are dealing with.

Francher talked about how we don't want to just open the plan every time an issue pops up. They will try to focus the public meetings on the issues at hand.

Goudie asks if amendment and revision are different.

Francher answers yes because ATV's were specifically excluded from original plan.

Publicover asks for clarification on whether we have to deal with every issue that comes up.

Francher said we could make decisions on which issues are important.

Goulet wonders if we should put a set time period for plan revision in the motion that is on the floor.

King asks if plan has ever been amended, Tellman answers no, King feels that make-up of the Board should be adjusted because of lack of representation of North Country people.

MOTION (# 2): To adjust time frame for revising plan from 11½ months to 9 months (June 1, 2002).

MOTION (#2) FAILS 3 TO 5

MOTION (#3): King proposes that the Advisory Committee should meet every month. Simpson Seconds.

DISCUSSION: Goudie thinks we may not have enough material to justify once-a-month meetings.

Frizzell feels we should not box ourselves in on meeting dates.

MOTION (#3) FAILS 2 TO 7

MOTION (#1) PASSES 7 TO 2

King asks who is responsible for getting the information out. Miner said he is the contact person.

Stearns asks if it takes less than 11 and a half months to go through process can we make whatever changes we need at that time. Tellman says yes. Stearns feels that the lengthy process has helped identify issues that might not have come up otherwise.

Francher passes out draft on public input on Nash Stream Forest Management Plan.

Tellman feels the questions will open up everything and we will lose focus. Publicover agrees that questions should be targeted.

Stearns says that gated roads will be an issue.

Espy asks if there are other State lands with this kind of management plan. Miner says this is the only one with this kind of plan.

King feels we should target issues we have identified. King feels overall the plan has worked fairly well.

Goulet asks if we just target issues are we really doing a revision process.

Goumillout asks about gating, who will maintain any roads that are ungated?

Tellman responds that just because items are identified doesn't mean we are going to change them.

Publicover asks if amendment and revision are definitions set in stone. Francher says their definitions are generally accepted.

Francher sums that we should target individual questions about identified issues and provide for any other issues to come up.

Possible Public Meeting locations and dates are discussed

Plymouth and Groveton High Schools are locations of choice with dates being either October 18, 23, 25 or 30.

King wants first meeting in Plymouth.

Publicover asks about written comment period, will end last day of October.

Mason asked if bear baiting could be brought up at Public Meeting? Yes.

Discussion of strategies that need further discussion.

King reads RSA 227-I:5 and feels that board reappointments and terms need to be changed.

Miner responds that Board is sub-committee of Forest Advisory Board and Director of Forests and Lands is responsible for appointments.

Tellman went over strategies that need further discussion and strategies considered valid but require rewording, updating or further explanation.

Roundtable – Committee Members

No comments.

Public Input

Ted Burns – North Country ATV Club – Misinformation given out – No moratorium in HB717 but there is an agreement between Legislators and Commissioner Bald. Federal Easements do not specifically outlaw ATV's, State-wide Trails Advisory Committee in Concord only took two hours to recommend that Plan be changed, asks for show of hands on how many people on Advisory Board live in Towns in which Nash Stream lies. Four people raise their hands. Asks for show of hands on what peoples feeling on ATV's at Nash Stream are. Tellman advises against responding, reminds audience that this is comment period not question and answer session.

Kathy Guiss – Asks if the public input is the lonely input on ATV issue. Who else is involved in the Committees decision? Tellman answers that public input is very important and Forests and Lands and their partners have input.

Edith Tucker says one of the papers outlines who have to be listened to.

Francher says State looks to other agencies for expertise.

Guisss still doesn't understand the delay.

Ken Grimes – Wonders if people really haven't seen ATV trail proposal.

Bill Roy – Asks for time of Public Meetings – 6:00 –8:30 p.m., Asks for number of people on Committee – 15.

Harlen Connary – Did people ask questions of the club after they walked trail in 1999? Tellman said Commissioner didn't ask for Board's input at that time.

Bill Roy – Asks about East-West trail on Trio Ponds Road, where did Tellman hear about this? Tellman said someone in Concord had mentioned that eventually the plan was to connect Stratford trails with trails on Mead Lands in Dummer, Dixville, Millsfield and Cambridge.

Ken Grimes – Nash Stream is 41,000 acres, ATV club only asks to use 38 acres.

King says State collects money for trail maintenance.

Dean Walsh – Owns Dalton Mountain Motors – put on paid staffer to work on State-wide Trail issues. There is additional support from private industry. Commends Board for specific timetable.

Kathy Guiss – As nature lover, thinks trail maintenance by Stratford Club is very good and that they encourage responsible riding.

Bill Roy – Four-wheelers do cause erosion but it can be repaired. Feels Millsfield and Stratford club trails should be linked up.

Ken Grimes – ATVing is not like you see on TV, they go slow and ride responsibly, and average age is 55 years old.

MOTION (#4): Simpson asks that Ted Burns be added to the Advisory Committee. Mason Seconded.

DISCUSSION: Goudie says that people presently on the Board represent users on the forest.

MOTION (#4) PASSES ON VOICE VOTE.

Bryce speaks about Forests and Lands role, as an agency important to have local input on management of State land, 2/3 of Advisory Board members are from Coos County. Also as a State agency have an obligation to be responsive to all members of the public. Sometimes this is a difficult balancing act, weighing desires of North Country with needs Statewide. He thanked the Board for their thoughtful discussion. The larger issue is ATV use on all State lands not just Nash Stream. Apologizes for taking such a long time but process is precedence setting.

Other properties with ATV trails;

Bear Brook State Park – not a formal trail – scheduled use.

Hopkinton-Everett Flood Control Area – Federal land under State lease.

Next Meeting – November 8th, 3:30 p.m. Lancaster