

Connecticut Lakes Headwaters Citizens Committee
October 28, 2022, 10:00am
Pittsburg Fire Station

The Connecticut Lakes Headwater Citizen Committee dedicate this meeting in recognition of the service by Sandy Young, Regional Supervisor, Great Northwoods Management Area. Sandy's dedication to making the Headwaters available to the residents and visitors to the Pittsburg region is a testament of his love for the community.

In Attendance:

CLHCC Members	Staff
Gail Hanson, Chair, Governor and Council	Maggie Machinist, Regional Forester, DFL
Harry Brown, Governor and Council	Craig Rennie, Chief, DPR Bureau of Trails
Darrin Jock, Town of Pittsburg	Clint Savage, Regional Supervisor, Bureau of Trails
Ray DeMaio, Town of Clarksville	Dwayne Covell, Bureau of Trails
Hasen Burns, Town of Stewartstown	Dianne Mattot, Park Manager, Bureau of Parks Ops
Eric Stohl, Speaker of the House	Johanna Lyons, DPR State Park Planner
Gene Chandler, Speaker of the House	Lieutenant Mark W. Ober, Jr., NHFGD
Ken Hastings, Senate President	Dave Degruittola, LandVest
Charles Levesque, Senate President	Bennett Lohmeyer, LandVest
Pierre Bedard, Northwoods Lease Holders Assn	
Raymond Gorman, Coos County Commissioners	
Patrick Hackley, Designee, DNCR	
Jill Kilborn, Designee, NHFGD	
Matt Sampson, Landowner, Forestland Group	

Absent:

Richard Judd, Town of Pittsburg
 Jim Gallagher, Designee, DES

Welcome & Announcements:

- Pierre Bedard has been appointed by the Northwoods Lease Holders Association
- Charlie Levesque has been appointed by the Senate President as the Forest Ecology representative
- Gail announced that Ken Hastings, after 13 years on the committee, will be moving soon and this may be his last meeting. Gail thanked him for his service.

Minutes

- Hasen Burns moved to accept the minutes from the May 14, 2022, meeting, Charlie Levesque seconded the motion, all in favor to approve the minutes.

New & Old Business

- Recreational Sub-Committee – Charlie Levesque
 - The committee has met twice since the May meeting, 8/25/22 and 9/27/22
 - August meeting summary
 - Reviewed the list of recreational issues from the December 2021 meeting and discussed how to proceed.
 - The consensus was to do a one-year plan to incorporate the 2012 & 2017 amendments into the 2007 plan.
 - In 2023 public outreach and comment will be incorporated.
 - There was much discussion about expanding the ATV trail network and linking the 1st Connecticut Lakes businesses to the Perry Stream network.
 - Charlie asked Darrin to provide maps showing roads and other trails for the network at the next meeting.
 - Other issues discussed were Road maintenance and Enforcement.
 - September meeting summary
 - Reviewed ATV proposal and sketched it out on large scale maps.
 - Goal is to link to other trail networks to the south and link to the First Connecticut Lakes businesses and provide interesting loops on the property back to the Perry Stream network.
 - Would need to have a comprehensive management/maintenance plan for the trail network.
 - Liability would need to be addressed, especially if on roads that also have truck & passenger cars on them.
 - Need to be sure there is adequate public use management and law enforcement.
 - The committee would like to continue to meet and support the planning effort over the next year.
- 20th Anniversary
 - 2023 is the 20th anniversary of the closing of the conservation effort.
 - Pittsburg BOS are excited to include the celebration at Old Home Days on 8/8/23.
 - Charlie Levesque volunteered to chair the Recreation Sub-Committee. Gail asked if anyone else wanted to step up and be the chair of the anniversary committee, at this point no one did.

Monitoring Compliance (RSA 12-A:9-b,V(a))

- Maggie Machinist reported that NHDFL completed it's fall monitoring.
- Jill Kilborn reported that NHFGD Jake DeBow monitored 10 forestry operations in 911 acres of SMAs.

Public Recreational Use (RSA 12-A:9-b,V(b))

- DPR
 - Roads
 - Graded 61 miles of roads
 - 40 miles of roadside mowed
 - Rented an excavator for 3 months to work on East Inlet Road
 - Ordering replacement mileage signs for East Inlet and Magalloway roads
 - Replaced 60 culverts
 - Graded first mile of Magalloway

- Graveled part of Smith Brook Road
 - Public Use
 - The SCA NH Corps upgraded the trail and stair at Little Hellsgate Falls
 - Cohos Trail completed a 2.2 mile of new trail named Nilsen's Leg
 - The Northwoods Lease Holders held a work day (Sandy Young Work Day) and painted 13 gates and several out buildings.
 - Comments – Gene Chandler asked if there was enough money and have, they spent all that was available. Clint Savage replied that \$300,000 was added to the budget and all but \$120,000 has been spent. Plan on using the funds in the spring.
 - Gene Chandler remarked that the road sub-committee is willing to meet
 - Motion was made by Harry Brown to send a letter to the Governor in support of DNCRs \$1.5 million dollar capital budget request for road maintenance on the Headwaters. It was seconded by Charlie Levesque and the vote on the motion was unanimous.
 - Johanna Lyons will draft the letter for the chair to review and send after the election.
- NHFGD
 - Roads
 - Rebuilt a spur road off East Inlet to Smith Brook area
 - Replaced culverts & crushed gravel for the roads
 - NHFGD uses endowment funds to match federal funds so there currently there is enough funding to maintain the roads in the CLNAs.
 - Public Use
 - Quieter than the last two years, didn't see any illegal camping
 - Did encounter enduro bikes at Rhubarb Pond
 - Discussion
 - Need signage at every gateway to the property about campfire and camping prohibition – camping is allowed across the border in Maine and people may not know what the CLH property rules are
 - Need rules signs on the borders and at major entrances to the property

State Park, Natural Area and Lake Francis Impoundment Management Update (RSA 12-A:9-b,V(c), (g) and (h))

- DPR
 - Deer Mountain Campground – Some sites are closed because of needed dam maintenance. Johanna has scouted for sites to replace the ones that are closed. Dam repairs are being discussed and planned.
 - Lake Francis State Park – Campground is very busy, especially the waterfront sites.
 - Coleman State Park – Tree damage this spring, removed and trimmed trees. Lodges are doing well.
- CLNA
 - Awarded a contract for habitat project on Carr Ridge/South Bay Bog
 - RFP vegetation management proposals are being reviewed
 - In negotiation with LandVest to update forest resource plan which will be paid by the Stewardship Endowment
- DES – No Report

Plan Revision and Easement Amendment (RSA 12-A:9-b,V(d))

- Johanna reviewed the 10/20/22 draft “Public Access and Recreation Management Plan”
 - This 13-page plan represents what is required by the Easement. While the 2007 plan included much more information to document the property and it’s setting.
 - Incorporated the 2012 and 2017 amendments into the 2007 plan.
 - Selected 2017 action items were brought forward to work on in the next year including the Great Northwood ATV Club, trail proposal and continued collaboration with the Cohos Trail (an active friends’ group)
 - Many administrative action items to work on in the next year
 - The year-long plan preparation schedule was reviewed.
 - Hasen Burns motioned to recommend the plan to the landowner, Eric Stohl seconded the motion, all in favor.

Public Comment and Other Business

- Northwoods Leaseholders Assn will be donating a recognition plaque in honor of Sandy Young to be installed in the Fire Station
- The question was asked why the meeting was held on a Friday? Gail asked the committee for a show of hands if meeting were preferred on a Friday or Saturday, Friday was the majority preference. Johanna will send out a doodle poll for a committee meeting in May and work on a date for the first planning meeting in January (public listening session on Thursday evening/meeting on Friday?).

Hasen Burns motion to adjourn, Ken Hastings seconded it, all in favor, meeting ended at 11:50am.

Respectfully Submitted, Johanna Lyons, DNCR Administrative Clerk

~ END ~