

Minutes of the Conservation Land Review Committee
March 18, 2009

Meeting was called to order at 7:45 p.m.

Attended: Gary Langenbach, Chairman, Pine duBois, Barry Mathias, and Sue Chamberlain.

Minutes for the meeting January 14, 2009 were approved.

The forest plan application submitted to The Sampson Fund was approved for \$3,000. Phil Benjamin, a forester who sits on the Board of Wildland's Trust, suggested that there are various potential revenues from the forest once the management plan is in place. How to implement the plan for firewood is one of the issues to be resolved: cut it all at once, cut firewood over a period of time or let people cut it when they need it.

The first tasks needed are setting the bounds and marking the trees to be thinned.

There was discussion about the PA Landers proposal to purchase/trade land with the Town of Kingston for a gravel operation and eventual development. The Committee was against this proposal based on 1) the committee's current effort to start the process of doing a survey on town land and a forest management plan for Camp Nekon. The committee is not sure of the bounds so the sale of adjacent property to PA Landers is premature. Further, this appears to be a poor use of the Town's resources. There has been no real assessment of the value of the land nor has there been an alternative use plan. Finally, the monetary benefit does not outweigh the importance of impact on the water supply close by.

The committee unanimously voted to send a letter to acting Town Manager Healey in opposition of the PA Landers proposal based on the points made above. Gary will draft a memo and submit before the deadline of March 25.

The management plan for Camp Nekon was discussed

Pine will look into the purchase of cameras to catch ATV abusers to put near the tunnel at Rt. 80.

Pine will get the footage of Camp Nekon on Smelt Pond

Pine will contact Andy Backman at DCR and let him know we are having a difficult time getting a handle on how to stop the destruction of land at Camp Nekon due to ATV's especially around water areas like Great Mink Hole and Wolf Pond. Signage is needed and patrolling.

Gary will talk to Maureen and ask her to call the Environmental Police every Friday until they do something about the problem.

The approach to the *Management, Maintenance and Proposed Use of the Property* section was prioritized as follows:

- 1) Forest management plan (already underway)
- 2) Control of off road vehicles
Need an aerial map of the area, to mark the most used areas.
Gary to make a USGS map of the properties and identify the hot spots for off road vehicles.
- 3) Identifying sensitive environmental areas, mark for protection & inventory species

- 4) Blazing and maintenance of trails, improve fire roads, equestrian trails
- 5) Opening the beach and areas/policies for boat access
- 6) Gate and kiosk

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Next meeting is April 29, 2009 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Sue Chamberlain