

New Hampshire Council on Resources and Development

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Final Minutes – May 10, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jared Chicoine, Chair, Director, NH Office of Strategic Initiatives
Shawn Jasper, Commissioner, Department of Agriculture
Amy Clark, Designee, NH Department of Education
Christopher Way, Designee, NH Department of Business and Economic Affairs
Timothy Drew, Designee, NH Department of Environmental Services
William Ray, Designee, NH Housing Finance Authority
Steve LaBonte, Designee, NH Department of Transportation
Tracy Boisvert, Designee, NH Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
Richard Cook, Designee, NH Fish and Game Department
Stephen McLocklin, Designee, NH Department of Administrative Services
Marta Modigliani, Designee, NH Department of Safety

OTHERS PRESENT

Michael Klass, NH Office of Strategic Initiatives
Noah Hodgetts, NH Office of Strategic Initiatives
Christopher Hodgdon, Merrimack County Commissioner, NH Fish and Game Com.
Frank Michel, Esq.
Ken Gallager, NH Office of Strategic Initiatives
Christopher Gamache, Chief, NH Bureau of Trails
Steven Walker, NH Office of Strategic Initiatives
Matt Leahy, Public Policy Manager, Society for the Protection of NH Forests

I. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was opened at 9:33 AM by Chairman Chicoine. CORD members and guests introduced themselves.

II. MINUTES

A. Approval of January 11, 2018 meeting minutes

Mr. Drew commented that on page one, under Members Present, Shawn Jasper should be listed as a Commissioner and not a designee.

MOTION: On a motion by Commissioner Jasper, seconded by Mr. Cook, the January 11, 2018 meeting minutes with Mr. Cook's proposed amendment were approved unanimously by the council. Mr. Drew, Ms. Clark, Mr. LaBonte, and Mr. McLocklin abstained.

III. DISPOSAL OF STATE-OWNED SURPLUS LAND

A. 2018 SLR 001 (Ashland)

Mr. Cook gave an overview of SLR 001, which involves the Church Hill Wildlife Management Area. Mr. Cook reviewed the ownership history of SLR 001: Fish and Game acquired the property in 1972 from the Department of Transportation (DOT). DOT acquired the 510-acre site in 1962 for the construction of Interstate 93, on the east side of the Ashland interchange. Four years ago the Squam Lake Association acquired the interest to a parcel south of SLR 001 and had the area surveyed, which identified several boundary issues. Mr. Cook stated that a subsequent survey revealed that a 2.23 acre section of the 510-acre site contained several structures owned by Mr. Courtney Smith, who is represented by Attorney Michel. Mr. Smith and Attorney Michel have accepted that the survey is correct. Mr. Cook stated that DHR has reviewed and approves of the conveyance. Mr. Smith had the property appraised for \$4,000. Mr. Cook stated that Fish and Game would like to convey the property to Mr. Smith for the appraised value.

MOTION: Commissioner Jasper moved to recommend 2018 SLR 001. The motion was seconded by Mr. Way. The council voted unanimously to approve the motion.

B. 2018 SLR 002 (Wentworth's Location, Couture)

Mr. Cook gave an overview of SLR 002, which is located in Greenough Ponds in Wentworth's Location. Mr. Cook reviewed the ownership history of the Greenough Ponds Wildlife Management Area and noted that when Fish and Game acquired the property in 2013, there were two camps located on the site. In early 2014 Fish and Game entered into five-year leases with the owners of both camps. Mr. Cook has asked for an extension of the lease to ten years. Mr. Cook stated the lease price was calculated by starting with the lease price from the time Fish and Game acquired the property and then taking a four year rolling average of the consumer price index. The lease price is increased annually by the four-year consumer price index over the course of the lease.

In response to a question from Mr. Drew, Mr. Cook stated that the lease costs help to cover the cost of going through the SLR process and enforcing conditions of the lease (including showing the lessee what trees can be cut). The camps are also inspected annually. Additionally, Fish and Game provides LCHIP with an annual report.

MOTION: Commissioner Jasper moved to recommend 2018 SLR 002, which was seconded by Mr. Drew. The council voted unanimously to approve the motion.

C. 2018 SLR 003 (Wentworth's Location, North Country Outing Club)

Mr. Cook referred to his previous statements on SLR 002. Mr. Klass noted that DHR has requested that the lessees of SLR 002 and SLR 003 investigate registering their properties on the historic property index. Mr. Cook stated that one property might qualify for the historic property index, but the other isn't that old and may not qualify. Ms. Boisvert stated that according to Elizabeth Muzzy, DHR CORD Designee (not present), DHR is not opposed to this project, but would like owners to look into historic preservation designation, which may provide access to additional funding sources.

MOTION: Commissioner Jasper moved to recommend 2018 SLR 003, which was seconded by Mr. Ray. The council voted unanimously to approve the motion.

D. 2018 SLR 004 (Gorham)

Ms. Boisvert introduced the request, which property is located in the Town of Gorham in the Brae Burn Village mobile home park off of Route 2. One section of Brae Burn Village is wedged between the Presidential Rail Trail and the northern side of Route 2. Ms. Boisvert stated that Brae Burn Village had the property surveyed as part of the process of becoming a co-op and discovered that four homes lie within the rail corridor. The proposed resolution is to convey 0.18 acres, approximately 20' x 360', to Brae Burn Village, which encompasses the portions of the mobile homes currently located within the state-owned rail corridor. Mr. Gamache stated that the conveyance wouldn't affect operation of the rail trail or future rail service, which is three tracks wide (approximately 100') compared to the typical rail corridor which is only one track wide (30').

MOTION: Mr. Ray moved to recommend 2018 SLR 004, seconded by Commissioner Jasper. The motion was approved unanimously by the council.

E. 2018 SLR 005 (Windham)

Ms. Boisvert requested that SLR 005 be tabled until the July 12th meeting.

MOTION: Commissioner Jasper moved to table 2018 SLR 005 to CORD's July 12th meeting, seconded by Mr. Drew. The motion was approved unanimously by the council.

IV. LAND CONSERVATION INVESTMENT PROGRAM (LCIP)

A. Land Conservation Endowment Fund. Request for authorization of custodial agreement

Mr. Walker stated that a new custodial agreement is authorized every biennium or with a change in directorship. Mr. Walker stated that the latter, a change in directorship has occurred. The custodial agreement is needed so that the LCHIP Program can continue overseeing the Land Conservation Endowment Fund.

MOTION: On a motion by Commissioner Jasper, seconded by Mr. Ray, Chairman Chicoine was authorized to sign the custodial agreement. The motion was approved unanimously by the council.

V. LAKE SUNAPEE PUBLIC BOAT ACCESS

A. Discussion regarding the Lake Sunapee Public Boat Access Development Commission reports

Mr. Cook stated that Fish and Game Executive Director Normandeau was unable to attend today's meeting but would like to be involved in this discussion. Ms. Boisvert concurred on behalf of DNCR. Chairman Chicoine suggested a public hearing to be held to discuss the recommendations of the Commission report prior to further discussion by CORD.

MOTION: Commissioner Jasper moved to defer further discussion of the Lake Sunapee Public Boat Access Development Commission reports until the July 12th CORD meeting, to be preceded by a public hearing on the matter. The motion was seconded by Mr. Way and approved unanimously by the council.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Smart Growth discussion

Mr. Klass reminded the Council of RSA 9-B, codified in 2000, which requires state agencies to act in ways that encourage smart growth. Mr. Klass stated that beginning in 2001 CORD was given the responsibility every four years to produce a report on smart growth. The last report was completed in July 2016 and included a recommendation that (1) CORD perform an annual review how it is meeting its responsibility with regard to smart growth, and (2) add a smart growth agenda item to the regular CORD meeting agenda. Mr. Klass requested that an item related to smart growth be added to the next meeting agenda to discuss further.

B. Ride the Wilds update

Mr. Drew referred to recent news media reports of negative behavior related to ATV use in the northern part of the state. He also referred to prior CORD discussions concerning the Kelsey Notch trail as part of the Nash Stream Management Plan. Mr. Drew advised that CORD be aware of the general issue. Ms. Boisvert stated that during preparation of the Management Plan there was preliminary discussion of an east-west ATV trail through the Nash Stream State Forest. Ms. Boisvert state that fieldwork showed that an ATV trail would not be appropriate. Instead the Ride the Wilds east-west ATV trail relies on town roads through the Town of Stark. A warrant article to prohibit ATVs from town roads in Stark was defeated at Town Meeting in March. While ATVs can continue to use town roads in Stark, there are other issues related to ATV use brewing including DNCR and DOT being sued by property abutters over use of ATVs on the Presidential rail trail. Mr. Drew asked if there is a process where complaints are filed. Ms.

Boisvert stated there is a three-year pilot for Kelsey Notch during which CORD requested an annual report, addressing trail degradation and water quality issues from current ATV use and also enforcement issues.

C. Next Meeting

Chairman Chicoine reminded the Council that the next meeting will be held on July 12th preceded by a public hearing related to Lake Sunapee Public Boat Access. Meeting details will be announced when available.

VII. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: With business completed, Commissioner Jasper moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Drew, and unanimously approved by the Council.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 AM.