

Meeting Minutes for the 2/3/2018 Conservation Committee Meeting Rev 1

-Call to order by chairman Greg Lewis at 8:00 AM

- Roll Call: Greg Lewis, Bill Ruelle (Phone), Jim West, Brian Deutschel, Bill Zimmerman, Larry Bacci, Adam Lucas and Mike Jolly all present. Dan Fallia Absent Excused.
Also present are Ian Dockril (general manager), Doug Wilson (board liaison), Mitch Spring (Board President) and Jeff Cattin (trail sports subcommittee Representative)

-Approval of January 2018 CC Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve made by Brian Deutschel and second by Jim West. 8-0 Approved

Old Business

H Trail Closure BAR

The Bar that was submitted to the board in December was returned to the committee for reconsideration. The board requested that the conservation committee to consider 4 things:

1. Snowmobile access.
2. ATV access during peak season.
3. Trail Damage during wet seasons.
4. Woods security during hunting season.

Brian Deutschel presented a series of slides with some gate closing recommendations.

1. Trail gate open at Managers discretion when snow conditions would support snowmobiles (Trails Groomed.)
2. Trail gate closed after snowmobile season until trails dry out (March, April and May).
3. Trail gate closed each night on same schedule as main woods gate. Gate closed on holiday weekends when woods gate has security checking stickers. Trail gate closed during all hunting seasons.

Brian's proposal would have the gate open from between Memorial day and Labor day on the same schedule as the Woods gate. Gate would also be open to snowmobiles only when snow conditions will support snowmobiling.

An alternative proposed schedule was presented (Hand out) by the Trail sports committee.

Similar to Brian's proposal but the gate would be open at the managers discretion in the spring thru November 10th when trail conditions would support wheeled vehicle traffic. Gate would be closed each night to follow the Woods gate closing schedule.

Old Business - continued

Proposed Timber Cut for 2018

The Committee is still waiting for forester (Terry Manty) to recommend a replacement aspen cut for the previous Unit 4 cut that was rejected by the committee in December due to impact on Conifer winter cover. Scott Grush has sent an email requesting the replacement unit to Terry. Tabled until Terry Manty provides a additional Aspen Unit.

After some committee discussion it was determined that Ian Dockril would contact Jerry Grossman and schedule a meeting to discuss some of the items that have dissatisfied the conservation committee.

Bill Zimmerman to prepare an Issues list.

Update as of 6Feb18. Bill Zimmerman, Ian Dockril and Mitch Spring attended a Pre-Harvest meeting with Terry Manty (Grossman Forest) and the 2018 wood cutter Dean Bugg.

The 2017 Wood cut began 6Feb18 with the logger in Unit 4. This area is planned to be complete by the weekend of 17Feb18 so the crews will be off the pheasant preserve for the shoot scheduled that weekend.

The Unit 1 Oak thinning will be next followed by Unit 3 and Unit 2.

Terry Manty stressed the requirement that the Oak thinning must be complete by March 15th (Oak Wilt) and Unit 3 must have frozen ground to prevent rutting. Terry also strongly emphasis the need for the logger to work around and protect the soft woods that are spread thru out unit 3. Terry also stressed that no Oaks or Beeches are to be harvested unless the are marked. Terry also stressed that some hardwoods are marked to be saved for aesthetics along the roads. We also requested that no tops are to be left on blinds and to avoid ladder and tree stands that are in the cuts.

After the meeting Terry Manty, Dean Bugg and Bill Zimmerman went out to the Unit 3 cut to identify an acceptable landing area. A site that minimizes softwood damage was selected directly across from field 71. In this area the softwood is in a narrow band along the road that can be punched thru so landing can be done off the road.

Terry and Bill also presented the field enlargement proposal to Dean Bugg at field 69 and 70. Deans initial thought was that the timber value between the fields would cover between 50% and 75% of the bulldozing. He will present a detailed proposal to Ian for this field enlargement. No Oaks present at this site. There is a pocket of 50 plus year old aspen along the access trail to field 70 that we may want to include in the deal to increase the timber value and reduce our out of pocket expense. Dean Bugg will have a bulldozer on site.

Bill Zimmerman discussed with Terry Manty the need for a unit 4 Aspen cut replacement for the 2019 wood cut.

Terry and Bill drove out to the 2019 planned Oak thinning to discuss the disconnect created between the committee members present on the woods tour and the written 2019 proposal

concerning thinning on the east side of the E Trail. It is very clear that the oaks on east side have never been thinned and are of the same age class and structure as those on the west side. I am satisfied that both sides should be thinned.

Terry also stated he would like to get the 2020 cut proposal to us earlier to improve the cost efficiency of visits.

Logging Road closure off Main Trail near Field #42

Ian Dockril reported that the Logging road from 2016 cut near Field 42 was now closed off by maintenance.

Deer Management and Timber Management Plans

Limited discussion about meeting space availability. Table until March Meeting.

Regular Item Reports

To Do List - Bill Z. For February

Fish Structure Work bee after the Trout Derby.

Fish, Lakes, Dams - Bill R., Bill Z.,

Fish Stocking plan, order fish. Bill R. Adam and Larry to bring complete plan to March Meeting. Fish to be ordered for fall delivery to protect them from Comorants.

Check Damns - Bill Z to perform checks in Feb. All lakes frozen solid.

Bill R. to investigate aeration windmills for improved lake O2 levels.

Budget -Dan Failla and Brian D.

2018 budget request has board approval.

Fields- Greg, Bill R. and Larry

2018 plans include planting more beans and corn to further improve quality of feed.

Greg has a Field planting plan that Bill Zimmerman is the process of putting a spread sheet for distribution and posting to website.

Timber- Mike, Brian and Bill Z.

2018 Timber harvest had not started as of the meeting.

Turkey Feeders- Jim and Adam

Jim reported that the feeders are full. No turkey activity yet near Horse barn feeder.

A third feeder was repaired and put into service near the horse barn. Turkeys are now using this feeder.

Future Planning - Mike and Brian

No Activity- The Board is restarting the Future planning committee.

Regular Item Reports-continued

Pheasant Shoots- Mike and Greg

Several shoots scheduled for Feb and March 2018

Mike Jolly presented the proposed rules update for the pheasant preserve.

Committee members are to send there suggestions back to Mike.

Surveys - Jim and Larry

Jim is beginning to prepare for the spring drumming and gobble survey.

Hunters Round Up - Bill R.

No Update

Articles- Brian and Jim

Jim is working on article on Active Forest Management of Oaks for Acorn productivity and stand Health.

Outside Resources- Mike, Bill R. and Bill Z.

Bill R. to look for a contact for the National Audubon Society .

Bill Z. and Greg Lewis to attended a Michigan Department of Agriculture town hall meeting on Bovine TB at Ossienke Twp. hall on Tuesday Jan 16th. Greg gave a summary of this meeting.

Greg and Bill also attended a meeting with regional DNR Wildlife Biologist Brian Piccolo to discuss TB, LLWC doe harvest quotas, subdivision deer and our deer gate check process. Brian has suggested that LLWC should accumulate Deer Heads in a Freezer for periodic DNR pick up and TB Testing.

Golden Winged Warbler Tag Alder treatment has not yet started.

Forest Health- Mike, Greg and Adam

No update.

Blind Committee- Dan, Bill R. and Larry

No Activity

Trail Sports Committee - Bill Z.

No update. Need fresh snow.

Open Forum

1. **No Issues brought forward.**

New Business

Rules update.

No activity -Table until March.

Fish Structure Workbee

Planned for After Trout Derby on Badger Lake.

TB Testing of Deer at Lost Woods.

Discussed getting a freezer dedicated for use with Deer heads for collection / pickup point for DNR. Table until March.,

Membership Conservation Committee Surveys 2018

Brian presented proposed Deer Management and Timber Management surveys.

Members to respond with suggestions to Brian.

Surveys to be complete and voted on in March Meeting.

Pheasant preserve rules changes

Proposed rules changes were presented by Mike Jolly with some discussion.

Members to send mike updates for detailed rules BAR to be voted on in March

Motion to adjourn made by Larry and seconded by Jim. Motion Passed 8-0

Meeting Adjourned 11:06 AM.