

## Minutes of the Meredith Conservation Commission Work Session Sept 16th, 2010

Members attending: Don MacFarlane, Mark Billings, Ralph Pisapia, Peter Miller, John Sherman, Robert Davis

Alternate members attending: Robert LeCount

Guests:

Peter Ellis, Ecological Consultant  
Matt Tarr, Wildlife Specialist, UNH Co-operative Extension  
Lou Kahn, Meredith resident and town forest abutter  
Preston Eames, Meredith resident and town forest abutter  
Jack McEwen, Meredith resident and MCC volunteer  
Katie Callahan, Meredith resident and MCC volunteer  
Lisa Davis, Meredith resident

Chairman MacFarlane called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

### Hamlin/Eames/Smyth/Kahn Ecological Assessment

The entire work session was devoted to the presentations by Peter Ellis and Matt Tarr. As Ellis' report will eventually be posted on the town's website, these minutes will be limited to a summary of his and Tarr's management recommendations.

1. Beaver meadows: Leave them undisturbed, allow beavers to cycle through them, minimize forestry damage at wetland edges. Ellis noted that the cycle of abandonment and tree re-growth creates ongoing browse for beavers. Small clear-cuts of one quarter to one half acre in size near ponds also creates browse.
2. Blue Heron Rookery: Consider closing Arbutus Hill trail during nesting season.
3. Forest Seeps: Forest seeps are small wet areas where groundwater wells up. Limit forestry within 100 feet of seeps. Direct trails away from seep edges.
4. Vernal Pools: Log less than 50% of canopy within 200 feet of vernal pools. Avoid skidder paths within 200 feet, likewise impact to understory. Ellis noted that vernal pools are great field labs for school programs.
5. Forested Swamps: Limit logging within 100 feet. Monitor recreational impact.

6. Hardwood Forests: The red oaks in the south portion of Hamlin should be monitored for thinning/release in the next 10 to 20 years.

7. Clear-cut Area, Eames Town Forest: Consider re-cutting a portion of this every five years to create wildlife habitat for songbirds, snowshoe hares, moose, and other shrub preferring species. This could be done with a “brontosaurus” if gotten to soon. Cost of brontosaurus is approximately \$1500/day, with the machine capable of clearing one or two acres per day. Grant money from Fish and Game is available to help defray cost.

Overall management recommendations:

Northern portion of Hamlin: Leave “forever wild” and for recreation.

Central and southeast portions of Hamlin: Forestry and recreation.

Hamlin/Eames beaver wetlands: Conservation and recreation.

Eames clear-cut: Shrub habitat and recreation.

South portion of Eames: forestry.

Meeting adjourned 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Miller,

Secretary