

Draft Summary

**Exeter Conservation Commission
Site Visit to Henderson-Swasey Town Forest
March 13, 2010**

Members present: Peter Richardson, Sean Lyons, Carlos Guindon and Jay Sullivan

At the February ECC meeting an agenda item was the approval of the Forest Management Plan with forester, Charles Moreno. During the discussion of what part of Henderson Swasey the logging activity would occur, Mr. Guindon mentioned as a result of a recent storm there was significant damage to trees in that area and perhaps that might alter the proposed plan. It was agreed to schedule a site walk to view the damage and determine if immediate action should be taken to insure user safety and possibly modify the proposed plan.

When walking the area they found the downed trees across the trails had already been removed. An individual who was meeting up with other members of a local biking group for more trail work was also encountered. He was thanked for their efforts in working on the trails but stressed the importance and need to communicate with the Commission before any trail work is undertaken.

At this time of year it was possible to view the trails that had been leaf-blown this past fall and those trails where the leaves had been left naturally. It appeared the leaf removal caused more erosion and compaction of trails as well as widening the trail in some instances.

Other areas needing work to reduce braiding of trails and erosion and to close off some trail sections to reduce impact were discussed and agreed amongst the members.

It was concluded there were not enough downed trees to justify modifying the timber management plan.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginny Raub
Secretary