

# Windham Forestry Committee

## MEETING MINUTES

Friday, January 16, 2015

### ATTENDANCE:

Wanda Rice – Chair  
Norman Babineau – Vice Chair  
Holly Hanford Oliver – Secretary  
Wayne Morris – Conservation Commission (excused)  
James Finn – Conservation Commission

Meeting was called to order at 1:05 pm

### DISCUSSION:

Norm motioned to approve December's Meeting Minutes, Jim seconded. Motion approved 3-0-1. Holly abstained because she was not present at the last meeting.

Wanda sent the report from Emma Carcagno regarding wildlife management goals to Mike Powers. Emma felt we should keep hemlock despite Woolly Adelgid, Mike felt it should all be removed. We were all in agreement that we should remove infested trees only. Along the same lines, Norm wondered about Mike's plan for the ash trees and Emerald Ash Borer. Wanda will follow up with Mike on his plan for both types of trees and the pest management plan.

Wanda reported that she had given Mike's proposal to Dave and is awaiting confirmation that Mike has received it.

We discussed the public relations plan for the harvest. Jim suggested a preliminary general posting as soon as Mike marks the trees. Norm wants to highlight the benefits to our town and wildlife as soon as possible with general information this winter, with more detailed articles as the harvest progresses, with a possible site walk after tree marking. Wanda will work on a preliminary article for our next meeting

The outcome of the Citizen's Petition to move the Forestry Committee under the Conservation Commission, reviewed at the BOS meeting was recapped, and it was voted to Not Recommend by the selectmen 4-1.

The town forest tree stands were discussed, and Wanda will contact Mike about how he will handle them during the harvest. We considered the options of us removing them, Mike removing them, or letting them be.

Norm updated and distributed an updated Harvesting Timeline. He discussed the need for a CDD letter outlining the facts, benefits, our experienced forester (who has completed projects in Pelham), letters of intent to abutters, and traffic impact of the foresting. He felt it should be shared with the technical review committee for input. Wanda will put together a draft letter for the CDD.

Norm posted a copy of NH RSA 31:112 and discussed amending our Rules of Procedure to include reporting on the committee's activities for the town and state, as specified in the statute, for the past year and going forward. He suggests proceeding with public posting then a discussion by BOS, who will make the decision. It was discussed if the BOS have any say over our ROP since we are a separate entity. Norm will produce a letter of intent, post it, and give it to Dave for BOS to vote on.

The Master Plan was discussed, with Phase II including our long-range goals for harvesting every 10-12 years and adding more town forest properties. Norm will research before next meeting.

We discussed hiring a town scribe to record Meeting Minutes so Holly can be more involved in our meetings, rather than immersed in note-taking. Discussed how to budget, and possible use of interns. Wanda will check with Dave regarding this and will report back.

The Forestry Fund was discussed, and its authorized appropriations allowed under RSA 31:113. Norm wondered if warrant articles were needed for spending in our forest. We discussed the Forestry Committee appropriating funds for forest spending. Norm would like clarification from legal counsel. Wanda will check her old emails concerning this issue, and review with Dave S.

No update yet on Jim Fricchione's town forest volunteer status. Dave S. is very busy with budgets and town meeting preparations. Wanda suggested Jim check back with Dave for status.

Next meeting set for Friday, February 20 at 1:00 pm.

Jim motioned to adjourn, Wanda seconded. Meeting adjourned at 2:21 pm.  
Motion approved 4-0-0.