

Windham Forestry Committee

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, March 20, 2015

ATTENDANCE:

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

Meeting was called to order at 1:08 pm

DISCUSSION:

Norm motioned to approve February's Meeting Minutes, Wayne seconded. Motion was approved 4-0-1. Jim abstained because he was not present at the last meeting.

We reviewed the article for the Windham Independent, and Norm presented the title options. Wayne motioned to approve, "The Forest Speaks" as the title, Norm seconded. Motion was approved 5-0-0. We discussed putting article in all three local papers. Wanda will distribute it.

We reviewed the CDD letter of intent. Wayne motioned to approve with one edit, Jim seconded. Motion was approved 5-0-0. Wanda will send the letter to Elizabeth W.

All the paperwork from Bay State was received by Dave S.

Wanda and Norm talked about the two tree stands they removed (one had been tagged and one not), and are being stored on Norm's property. Norm motioned to approve posting a notice on the town website concerning personal property/tree stand removals, Wayne seconded. Motion was approved 5-0-0. We discussed adding a permanent structure policy to the bylaws. Wayne said we should follow the NH Fish and Game regulations for state property about removal. Our committee will work on new Town Forest bylaws that could be submitted to a town vote. Conservation would discuss updating other existing bylaws to be consistent across all town properties that allow hunting.

Wanda reported that Mike has started marking the trees for harvesting. Mike noted some large pines during his initial marking. Wanda viewed some of the work and was pleased. Mike will leave some snags and hemlock stands for wildlife habitat. Mike anticipates logging bid submissions in the April timeframe. Norm brought up the public tour idea and whether it should be before or after harvesting. Wayne felt it should be afterward. Wanda would like to leave our options open and wait to see how the actual harvest progresses. Possibly use local cable for forestry updates or education in place of an onsite event.

Wanda will contact Dave about the letter to 23 Osgood about their mailbox placement when the snow melts.

We discussed reworking the current Rules of Procedure. Norm explained that Dave will contact the BOS to revoke our existing RoP, and then supply us a template for a new one that the Committee would need to approve after public notification.

Wayne reported that the volunteer scribe is unable to work weekdays.

Wayne spoke with the assessor regarding combining the parcels and is awaiting a reply. Wayne presented a map showing open space surrounding the SEPTForest. Many possible trail network improvements were discussed.

Citizen's Petition was not approved in the recent town vote.

We discussed the harvesting methods, of which Mike quoted a biomass for our harvest. Norm thinks we should specify a biomass harvest, but Wanda wants to keep it generic. Wayne thinks it should be clean for the trail network. We'll get a better idea once Mike flags the skidder trails. Wanda spoke with Mike about blazing the edges, actual surveyor work would be needed.

Wayne would like us to join forces with conservation and work on a zoning ordinance update to increase buffers around vernal pools from 25' to 50'.

Norm wondered about the name for the town forest. Currently there is confusion with the Windham Town Forest off Route 28. Changing names for the SEPTF and WTF was discussed to make them more distinguishable to the public. Wayne feels the names should be historically connected. Wayne will bring this up with the Conservation Commission to explore a possible name change for the WTF.

Next meeting set for Friday, April 17 at 1:00 pm in the CDD room.

*Norm motioned to adjourn, Wanda seconded. Meeting adjourned at 2:27 pm.
Motion approved 5-0-0.*