

Windham Forestry Committee

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, May 29, 2015

ATTENDANCE:

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

Wanda called meeting to order at 1:07 pm.

DISCUSSION:

Jim motioned to approve the May 8 Meeting Minutes, Norm seconded. Motion was approved 5-0-0. Discussed possibly moving meetings to evenings in summer.

The phone list of the committee members has been distributed electronically.

Followed up on the Technical Review meeting. Deputy Fire Chief asked how much slash would be left behind because he was concerned with fire danger. Explained we're doing a whole tree harvest so little debris left in the forest. Discussed the Historical Committee's concern around the cellar holes. Wondered if we should remove trees around them to preserve the foundation from roots during the harvest, or do maintenance at a later date. Wanda wants to have a site walk with Frank Farmer for his input. Historic would like to preserve stone walls wherever possible.

Planning Board 6/17 public hearing status—nothing new to report.

Property Removal Notice sign—Signs posted at trail heads for several weeks. We may want to run in paper again. Jason Rodgers is aware we have some hunting gear we previously removed in case he hears from anyone.

Informational Harvest Sign— Holly presented revised sign, Norm wants to remove all property references and replace wording to reflect need for caution during the harvest. Wayne motioned to approve changes, Jim seconded. Motion was approved 5-0-0.

Timber Tax Abatement—Wanda will follow up on this.

Discussed the upcoming article for the Windham Independent regarding the new forest name. Wayne will write article soon.

Rules of Procedure—nothing new to report.

Status of Assessor request to merge town forest lots— Currently no full-time town assessor. We will discuss at a later meeting.

Wanda suggested doing a second small patch cut to benefit wildlife using the previous Option “A” landing area. We discussed the little to no maintenance required for the cuts. Wayne suggesting doing patch cuts around the cellar holes, which would require more maintenance. Wayne motioned to approve the landing patch cut, Jim seconded. Motion was approved 5-0-0.

Harvest Bid—Wanda waiting for first draft from Mike.

Proposal to increase buffer for 23 Osgood, Mr. Kahn—Wanda mentioned the possibility of changing the harvesting buffer around the Khan's property. A letter offering to look at it with him has been sent, asking him to contact Wanda at the forestry@windhamnewhampshire.com email. There has been no reply.

Discussed the upcoming forestry informational session and which room to hold it in. Decided the CDD room should be sufficient, with better acoustics and computer access. Wanda shared her agenda for the workshop, reviewed categories and made assignments to committee members. We discussed having it televised.

Norm shared his timeline and made minor edits. We decided we will add the timeline to the meeting minutes on our website from now on.

Laura Scott had our Forestry meeting minutes link added to the “Minutes” page on the town website.

Next meeting set for Friday, July 10 at 9:30 am in the CDD room.

*Wayne motioned to adjourn, Jim seconded. Meeting adjourned at 2:38 pm.
Motion approved 5-0-0.*

FOREST MANAGEMENT TIMELINE UPDATE

EVENT	TIMING	OWNER	STATUS
Competitive bidding on forest management	Completed Fall 2014	Committee	BSF bid approved 12/5
Post tree hunting stands for removal	Completed Fall 2014	Wanda/Norm/Holly	2 Stands Posted, +1 at Osgood
Submit 2014 annual town/state reports	Completed Winter 2014-15	Norm/Wanda	Town and State submitted.
Removal of any remaining tree hunting stands	Completed Winter 2014-15	Norm/Wanda	2 Stands Removed 3/6
Letter to CCD for notification and technical review	Completed Winter 2014-15	Wanda	Wanda delivered
General article on town forest management benefits	Completed Winter 2014-15	Wanda	Wanda published
Mark trees to be harvested	Completed Spring 2015	Forester	Weeks of 3/16 - 4/21
Newspaper/web article about forest wildlife	Completed Spring 2015	Committee	Wanda published vernal pool info.
BOS approval to use Landfill for road access and landing	Completed Spring 2015	Wanda/Committee	18-May
Newspaper/web article with status and goals	Completed Spring 2015	Wanda	Wanda published "Silviculture"
CDD Technical Review Committee	Completed Spring 2015	Wanda/Committee	26-May
Planning Board public hearing	Spring 2015	Wanda/Committee	Abutter listings done. 6/17 Mtg.
Send out letters to neighbors for a forest tour	Spring /Summer 2015	Forester/Committee	
Harvest logger bid process initiated	Spring/Summer 2015	Forester	
Review/approve logger bid.	Spring/Summer 2015	Committee	
Harvesting activities	Summer/Fall 2015	Forester/Logger	
Discussion of a 2016 town warrant article	Fall 2015	Committee	
2016 Budget request to fund meeting minutes taker	Fall 2015	Committee	
Submit 2015 annual town/state reports	Winter 2015-16		
Discussion on town forest by-laws	Summer 2016	Committee	State hunting rules, camping, dogs