

Windham Forestry Committee

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, September 26, 2014

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 1:01 pm

DISCUSSION:

Wayne motioned to approve Meeting Minutes from August 5, all were in favor.

We discussed regular meeting dates and agreed on the third Friday at 1:00 pm.

Wanda reported Dave is looking into the state statues as they apply to the Forestry Committee jurisdiction on “town forest” designated properties. Wayne and Jim agreed that it was not the intention of the Conservation Commission to give up overall control of these properties.

Wanda discussed advertising the bid work in public places including the newspaper and website for three weeks. We will need at least three bids to proceed. She shared her list of local foresters with town experience from Fred Borman. We plan to send notices to those listed foresters.

We all reviewed Wanda’s bid specification letter, and Norm made minor edits.

Norm distributed a harvest intentions timeline he created.

We discussed the four tree stands on the property. Norm felt the hunters need to follow state guidelines for removal. Norm will draft a notice to review with the Town and Conservation Commission We plan to post a letter on the stands on official town letterhead regarding their need for removal by January 31, 2015, with a link to the town and state websites for more information.

The Forestry Fund was discussed, and a possible use would be a gate at the Osgood entrance.

We discussed the tax abatement process, which is to be approved by the Board of Selectmen. Wanda will ask Dave to add this as an agenda item to an upcoming BOS meeting.

Wayne reported that the highway department has no issues with the road.

Wanda presented the biologist's wildlife report, which we agreed was thorough and well thought out. We plan to share her suggestions for wildlife habitat with the hired forester to implement.

Wanda said Pelham selectman Harold Lynde offered to discuss their forest management experiences with our Board of Selectman. We liked the idea.

We discussed the two cellar holes on the property, and have alerted the historic society of our findings. They will add the cellar holes to their historic "watch list." Wayne suggested opening up the area around the cellar holes and stone walls for better viewing. Wanda discussed the ongoing maintenance involved with creating an open space in the woods. We talked about installing signs noting the historical significance.

Wayne discussed his questions from a resident about removing downed trees from the property. We decided there would possibly be liability issues involved, and Norm was concerned about spreading invasive pests such as the Emerald Ash Borer. We do not feel residents should be allowed to take trees from the property for personal or donated use.

Next meeting in date set for Friday, October 17 at 1:00 pm.

Norm motioned to adjourn meeting at 2:18 pm, all were in favor.