

Windham Forestry Committee

MEETING MINUTES – D R A F T

Tuesday, August 5, 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 5:33 pm

DISCUSSION:

All members approved Meeting Minutes from June 26 and July 8.

Reviewed and discussed the town website presence. We feel it's a good start, and that we need to post the meetings on the town calendar portion of the site, and on the CDD bulletin board.

Wanda received an email request from the Elizabeth Wood Town Planner for any anticipated projects that would cost over the 75K minimum. No such projects planned at this time.

Norm and Wanda talked about their tour of the Pelham forest and the different phases of Bay State's forestry harvesting they observed. Norm shared his observations of the differences between biomass harvesting and timber harvesting, and the slash left behind.

We discussed what we want out of the project, including making money for the town, a healthier forest, creating trails, and improving wildlife habitat. Also discussed what is involved in the Eastern Cottontail habitat preservation.

Together we came up with a tentative project outline:

Fall

- Mark the trees to be harvested
- Notify Community Development Department about putting in access road and associated harvesting activity

Winter

- Schedule Conservation Commission update if needed

Spring

- Publish newspaper article to educate the public about the project and goals
- Send out letters of intent to the neighbors highlighting project and its benefits
- David Sullivan to notify abutter at 23 Osgood Road about moving mailbox near cistern
- Schedule Selectmen review and bid approval
- Bidding process commences

Summer

- Harvest the marked trees

We then discussed what to do with the monies earned from the tree harvest. We talked about setting up a separate forestry fund account, which we could later draw from for future town forest needs (ie: trail signs) and forest maintenance.

We planned to alert the Highway Department of our plans, and Wayne offered to get an email confirmation from Jack. We discussed our committee coming before the Conservation Department in winter to discuss our plan. The public will be informed of the harvest via an article in the local newspaper.

Norm has reviewed access road placement with the Fire Department. Deputy Chief Martineau responded in an email that he had no issues as long as the access road was at least 20 feet from the right hand cistern suction pipe. The distance from the pipe to the boundary is approximately 70 feet.

We wondered about who approves the bid and when. We discussed the cellar hole on lot 103 and its historical significance. Wondered if we should clean it up and treat it like a historical site with an explanatory sign or marker. Wanda expressed interest in becoming affiliated with the Tree Farm Program and having the program's sign installed.

Next meeting in September to be determined.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:41 pm