



OLD VALUES - NEW HORIZONS

WINDHAM FORESTRY COMMITTEE

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www.WindhamNH.gov/committees/forestry-committee

Minutes for September 16, 2016 (DRAFT)

Community Development Meeting Room

Public Invited to Attend

Call to Order at 1:10pm

- a. In attendance, Wanda Rice, Norm Babineau, Jim Fricchione (Jim Fr.), Brian McFarland.
- b. Jim Finn (Jim Fi.), excused absence

1. **Next Meeting Date and Time:** September 30th, 1pm in the Community Development building.

Reports on Action Items from Last Meeting

2. **Approve August Meeting Minutes.** Brian motioned to approve. Wanda seconded. Norm, Wanda, Brian and Jim Fr. vote to approve. Motion passed 4-0-0.
3. **Mcllvaine Town Forest Entrance and Informational Signs Status**
 - a. Total of 4 signs are now up; signs look great and professional
 - i. Location of signs are: Osgood Street, Weston Road (near Cops Hill), from Spear Hill Road, and Bayberry Road.
 - b. Lumber was purchased by Norm to replace Bayberry sign.
 - i. Norm is letting pressure-treated wood dry out and playing with test kit.
 1. It is very labor intensive and complicated to get proper spacing and to rout some letters such as "O."
 2. Conservation Commission is welcome to borrow kit for making signs.
 - ii. Next step is to stain the wood and rout out the sign.
 - iii. One possible idea is to purchase stone to install a post for the sign.
 - iv. Will also need to remove old Bayberry sign
 1. Spoke to Windham Historic District to inquire whether they would like old Bayberry sign, but they declined.
 2. Jim Fr. would like the sign if no one else wants the sign and if the sign comes off in one piece.
4. **Illegal Deer Hunter Activity Update**
 - a. Norm revised the Letter with a friendlier, generic approach that is now presented as a Wildlife Monitoring Letter.
 - b. Committee reviewed the new version; few slight edits to make a notice and not a letter (i.e., remove Wanda's name, remove greetings, etc.)

- c. Plan is to post the Letter to the tree stands within the Town Forest, to town website, place on bulletin boards in town, and send to Windham Independent.
- d. Norm will pass along slightly updated version of the Notice early next week.

5. Recent ATV Use Update

- a. Wall is looking good and few additional sign posts were put up.
- b. Norm and Jim Fr. also picked up garbage and removed an old, solid steel hockey net from the "Beaver Pond."
- c. There was lots of trail work done over the past month, but no ATVs seen.

New Business

6. Warrant Article for Funds for 2017

- a. Norm and Wanda briefly presented overview of Warrant Article process.
 - i. Private citizens (citizen petition with signatures) or Committees can submit Warrant Articles.
 - ii. Selectmen add recommendation; then Town Meeting (Deliberative session) is held.
 - iii. Public votes up or down on all Warrant Articles in March of each year.
- b. There is a standard format for Warrant Article verbiage.
- c. Our Warrant Article is merely asking for permission to use our own funds (i.e., no impact to the tax rate).
- d. Funds will be used for forest maintenance and creation or maintenance of trails; may not be available for off-site parking lot.
- e. Wanda motioned to approve Warrant Article verbiage with modification from \$7,000 down to \$6,000. Jim Fr. seconded. Norm, Wanda, Brian and Jim Fr. vote to approve. Motion passed 4-0-0.

7. Bylaws: Review and Edit Draft

- a. If Town/Selectmen do not manage the land (i.e., such as the McIlvaine Town Forest), then town ordinances (such as ATV ordinances or dog ordinances) do not apply.
- b. Committee reviewed entire Bylaws which were drafted by Norm.
 - i. Committee is fine with: Section I: Purpose; Section VI: Enforcement; and Section VIII: Waivers.
 - ii. Section VII: Validity and Section IX: Severability will be combined.
 - iii. Slight change to Section V: Disposition of Fines.
 - iv. There was lots of discussion on: Section II: Permitted Uses within the McIlvaine Town Forest; Section III: Prohibited Uses within the Windham Town Forest; Section IV: Violations.
 - 1. Brian will incorporate all comments and send around a tracked changes version of the latest Bylaws early next week.
 - 2. Jim Fr. will look into police measures / parameters to regulate public intoxication and disorderly conduct.

3. After thorough review, discussion and compromise of each of the proposed Bylaws, the committee voted 3 to 1 to approve. With Jim Fr. dissenting due to a proposed ban of target shooting in the McIlvaine Town Forest.
4. Committee will run the Bylaws by Windham's Fire and Police Departments; Committee will meet in 2 weeks to finalize the draft Bylaws and then hold a public meeting in approximately 4 weeks (Dave Sullivan, Town Administrator, along with the Police and Fire Departments will be invited to the public meeting)

8. Fall Trail Work

- a. Committee was planning to discuss the following, but will do so at the next meeting:
 - i. Weston Trail, stone wall work, easement improvements.
 - ii. Start new trail from Osgood to Weston.
 - iii. Bridge over water toward Settlers Ridge by utilizing the bridge to nowhere
 - iv. Possible partnership with NEMBA (New England Mountain Bike Association) to develop trails in the southern half of the property.
 - v. Discuss trail layouts including trail closures and possible new access trails.

9. Brian's Master Plan Updates for Forestry and Tree Farms

- a. Language from Norm and Wanda about the McIlvaine Town Forest and certified tree farm were added to the draft Master Plan chapter on Natural Resources & Open Space

10. Long Range Plan Review and Update

- a. Committee was planning to discuss this topic, but will do so at the next meeting

Norm motioned to adjourn, Wanda seconded. Motion passed 4-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 4:10pm