

Windham Forestry Committee

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, February 20, 2015

ATTENDANCE:

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

Meeting was called to order at 1:08 pm

DISCUSSION:

Norm motioned to approve January's Meeting Minutes, Wayne seconded. Motion approved 3-0-1. Wayne abstained because he was not present at the last meeting.

Opened with discussion and review of the newspaper article, the need for a catchy title, and when it should be printed. Norm thought a good time would be after the March 10th town vote. Norm will redistribute the updated article to our committee for further comments.

Norm discussed the use of "Town Forest" in capital letters, and thought it should be lower case. There's confusion among several parcels in town referred to as "Town Forest." We discussed the need for a future agenda item on consistent naming for the properties.

Reviewed the CDD letter and Norm's edits, made additional edits, and discussed the differences between biomass and slash harvests and what's left behind, and the pros and cons of each. Norm will redistribute the updated letter to our committee for further comments.

Resident Bob Coole attended the meeting and inquired about the forestry bidding process and who is selected based on price vs. quality. We explained the process and the steps taken to get where we are now.

Wanda mentioned the forestry bid contract has been received by the town. She will verify with Dave that the proof of insurance has also been received.

Wanda confirmed she discussed handling of possibly infested hemlock and ash species with the forester. He will save the hemlock stands but remove any ash trees.

The existing tree stands on the property were discussed, and whether or not to remove them. Wanda, Wayne and Holly want them removed as per indicated on the notices, but Norm had

mixed feelings. Wanda suggests forester marks and removes trees with stands if needed. Bob Coole suggested following the state hunting regulation guidelines and removing posted stands.

Wayne motioned to inform forester of posted tree stands and remove them if needed without limitations of cutting, Holly seconded. Discussion on who would be responsible to remove them. Motion approved 3-1-0 with Norm voting no. The state owned property guidelines indicate stands should be removed by January 31, as in our posted notice. Norm made a second motion to have the committee remove the two posted tree stands. Wanda seconded. Motion approved 3-1-0. Wayne voted no as the stands were previously posted so no additional motion needed. Norm and Wanda agreed to remove the two posted stands before the harvest.

Norm said he spoke to Dave about adding a reporting requirement on the Rules of Procedure, and Dave suggested the Board of Selectmen revoke the current Rules of Procedure, and we create a new forestry Rules of Procedure. Dave will assist with supplying us a template to work with.

Norm confirmed that he reviewed Laura's email about Phase II of the Master Plan and no further action is required unless our input is requested in the future.

We discussed hiring a town-supplied scribe, but that there is no budget for it this year. Norm added a reminder on the timeline to review this during the fall budget season. Wayne said he'd check with the new Conservation Commission scribe to see if she'd volunteer.

The future timber sale proceeds were discussed. Dave S. confirmed spending from the Forestry Fund must be presented at town meetings in the form of a warrant article. Norm added a reminder to the timeline to discuss further in the fall, prior to the 2016 town meeting.

Wanda said resident volunteer Jim Fricchione has been approved by the BOS as a forest steward.

We observed the properties on the projector and Wayne would like to consolidate the individual lots as one large block on town maps. He will follow up with the town assessor to see if the South-Eastern Properties town forest could be combined into one parcel.

Wanda stated she sent in the town and state report submissions for 2014.

We reviewed the harvest timeline and Wanda said the harvest will likely be impacted by all the snow. Norm reviewed the timeline items and made edits.

Wayne mentioned there will be an article in the paper stating the Conservation Committee is in support of the citizen's petition.

Next meeting set for Friday, March 20 at 1:00 pm upstairs at Town Hall.

Norm motioned to adjourn, Wanda seconded. Meeting adjourned at 2:41 pm. Motion approved 4-0-0.