

# Windham Forestry Committee

## MEETING MINUTES – D R A F T

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

### ATTENDANCE:

Wanda Rice – Chair  
Norman Babineau – Vice Chair  
Holly Hanford Oliver – Secretary  
Wayne Morris – Conservation Commission  
James Finn – Conservation Commission  
Mike Powers – Bay State Forestry Service

Meeting was called to order at 5:10 pm

### DISCUSSION:

Consulting Forester Mike Powers introduced himself and explained Bay State's forestry plan for Windham, including his management recommendations regarding forest access, timber harvesting, and improving forest health for wildlife.

The probable timing for the harvesting project would be as follows: timber marking in the fall of 2014, opening the bidding to logging operators around March/April of 2015 (expecting 10-15 bids), and proposed harvesting during the summer of 2015. Bay State's price is \$125/acre for all aspects of design and management of the project. Part of the project would include approximately 1000' of access road into the property. The cost of this would be rolled into the bid. Bay State must justify their services by timber harvested, and there is a lot of low-grade timber (especially in wet northeastern section). They use biomass harvesting, where the whole tree is removed with slash residue. Mike estimates between 1/4–1/3 will be removed. It was suggested that the town be asked to waive the timber tax on the timber sale. Plan to be completed under an existing work order. Mike will provide a copy to the chair for distribution.

We discussed the various entry points, and all agreed Osgood was the best option. Norm offered to contact Fire Department about cistern in cul-de-sac, and we studied the plan with a resident's driveway across town property there. We briefly discussed the question of locating property boundaries. Mike was confident that they can be located reasonably well without doing a survey. We talked about leaving a wide buffer in areas where the boundary might be in question.

We discussed the need for public relations for town residents, and Mike has agreed to share a sample letter that has been used with Pelham for our use. Jim was concerned about the residents' shock at removing too much in one area at one time, and suggested a staggered approach. Norm expressed his desire for transparency of the Forestry Committee, and keeping the public informed through the newspaper and by posting meetings publicly and on town

website. Holly wants to highlight how these new improved trails and timber sales will benefit Windham residents via our PR strategy.

We discussed the pros and cons of breaking up the harvest into multiple segments so that we would not impact the entire property at once. Mike indicated that in order for a harvest to interest bidders, the areas would probably need to be at least 50 acres, especially in areas where the timber value is low such as in the area between Bayberry Road and Osgood Road. After much discussion, all agreed that the harvesting should be done in one sweep starting in the southeast, then moving northward.

Set next meeting date for August 5 at 5:30 pm to discuss PR strategy and Osgood cisterns.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:43 pm