

Windham Forestry Committee

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, April 15, 2016

ATTENDANCE:

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

Wanda called the meeting to order at 1:08 pm

DISCUSSION:

Wanda motioned to approve March meeting minutes, Norm seconded. Motion approved 4-0-0. Discussed next meeting date and time – Wanda suggested an evening date for a spring public trail discussion for Thurs, May 19 at 7 pm and will put article in paper. Norm wants to notify Heritage, Holly will contact local scout families, Jim will reach out to Conservation Commission.

Newspaper articles – Norm suggested article on our progress status, Wanda thinks we should wait until trails are marked and easier to navigate.

Timber tax payment status – Town keeps \$5,600 from Hardwick's initial bond.

Tree Farm signs – Mike Powers will give us one, but we'd like more. Wanda will look into it.

Web page updates – Links between Forestry and Conservation. Norm had Wendi Devlin put in some links, but Conservation page needs more work to make it user-friendly.

Retaining records of committee business and correspondence – Wanda turned binder in to Town Clerk including meeting minutes and email correspondence.

Master Plan forestry input update – Norm spoke with Laura Scott about our input and she'll let us know.

BOS harvest update and future projects report on 5/2/16 – Wanda and Norm plan to attend.

Town ATV ordinance – Will no longer apply to town forest or conservation areas. Norm will contact NHF&G if we need further enforcement of state regulations. We'll need to update our website to reflect current regulations if the BOS approves ordinance changes.

Wildflower planting project on landing – Wanda wonders if we should add rocks to the end of the access road if we are going to need to maintain it. Rocks will be in way with yearly maintenance, possibly a gate instead? Will leave the rocks out and discuss a gate as part of the 2017 planning. We may need permission to occasionally access the property with equipment. Wanda will bring up at BOS meeting after speaking with Jack McCartney. Wanda spoke with Brian Zahn of Alpha Tractor Works and will get price after soil test is reviewed. Norm suggested getting bids on project, Jim agreed. Wanda said Amy Papineau from the Cooperative Extension suggests a cover crop before planting flower seeds in the fall.

Recreational Trail Program Grant (RTP) application process – Norm thinks next year we may want to apply for grant, as there is a lot of legwork and paperwork involved.

Trail work status and next trail projects – So far committee has completed three days of trail work from Weston to old Bayberry section, and Osgood to Osgood cellar hole. Norm wants stone walls modified for access to trail easements. Jim said stone boundaries are not supposed to be touched. Norm suggests legal advice. Jim will provide RSA for review first, then possibly reroute trail. Norm wants to remove dumped brush from Osgood for next step.

New trail signs – We reviewed new sign options. Wanda said she has sign router at home for plastic signs. Holly will adjust sign layout for review. Also discussed possible “political-type” plastic signs as an alternative.

Long-term project planning – Norm reviewed plans for future projects. Wanda suggested bumping up MTF bylaws for 2017. Norm wants buckthorn removed, may be able to remove by hand with uprooter tool rather than with chemicals – we will assess buckthorn and other invasives.

Norm wonders why conservation has its own bylaws for separate properties. Jim said he wasn't sure, that it's always been that way.

Wanda motioned to adjourn, Norm seconded. Motion approved 4-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 2.29 pm.

Next meeting is planned for Thurs, May 19 at 7:00 pm in the CDD room.