



OLD VALUES - NEW HORIZONS

WINDHAM FORESTRY COMMITTEE

Forestry@WindhamNH.gov

PO Box 120, Windham, New Hampshire 03087

(603) 432-3806 / Fax (603) 432-7362

www.WindhamNH.gov/committees/forestry-committee

Minutes for May 18, 2017 (DRAFT)

Community Development Meeting Room

Public Invited to Attend

Call to Order at 7:00pm

- a. In attendance, Wanda Rice, Norm Babineau, and Brian McFarland. Jim Fricchione (Jim Fr.) joined at 7:20pm. Jim Finn was not in attendance.

1. **Next Meeting Date and Time:** Thursday, June 15th at 7:00pm at the Community Development Meeting Room.

Reports on Action Items from Last Meeting

2. **Approve March 24th Meeting Minutes.** Brian motioned to approve. Wanda Seconded. Norm, Wanda, and Brian vote to approve. Motion passed 3-0-0.

3. Trails Updates

- a. **Weston Update:** Norm saw Dick Gregory, but Dick did not have time to check out the Weston Trail Easement from the street to the Town Forest. Developer needs to come back to the Town's Board of Selectmen for acceptance (i.e., this is not an approval). On the plans, it says Trail Committee, so Norm brought up to the Trails Committee that the Forestry Committee is interested in some type of delineation of the easement, such as stone markers, stone dust trail, and/or signage. Norm will keep checking on this matter.
- b. **Wood Meadows Update:** Norm brought up Wood Meadows during last Trails Committee meeting. Preference is to use existing trails, close down some trails, and build 2-3 new bridges. The developer was in attendance and did not have any objections. Jim Finn was at the Trails Committee meeting and proposed a site walk in the future. Wayne Morris, chair of the Trails Committee, will schedule a site walk and Norm will keep checking back. In addition, the "Bridge to Nowhere" had water underneath it last week and thus, it is recommended that the bridge should not be moved.
- c. **Marking Update:** Wanda and Norm got aluminum nails and red trail markers from the Conservation Commission. The new trail from Osgood to Weston was marked in both directions and the trail that comes in from Bayberry was marked in one direction.
- d. **Wildlife Trail Camera Research:** Brian briefly presented wildlife trail camera research from Trailcampro.com. Norm motioned to approve the purchase of Browning Recon Force Extreme camera and its security package (retailing at approximately \$179.95, plus \$42 for security package). Brian Seconded. Norm, Wanda, and Brian vote to approve. Motion passed 3-0-0. Wanda will look into better pricing and will visit the Town to make the purchase.

4. Gate Update: Norm went to Fences Unlimited. The gate, since it is for Town, will have to go through the Commercial Division of Fences Unlimited. Norm is still waiting to hear back from Fences Unlimited and will follow back up. A quote was also received from Alpha Tractor Works in Pelham.
5. Town Process for Project Billing: Depending on the time sensitivity and the cost, it is usually best to go through the Town as opposed to being reimbursed. Wanda will visit the Town to get more details on how invoices should be sent to the Town and when payment is made. In addition, it is recommended that costs over \$5,000 should have multiple bids.

New Business

6. Upcoming Terms Ending

- a. Wanda (general spot) and Jim Finn's (Conservation spot) terms are ending. Wanda is seeking a new term. It is unknown if Jim Finn will seek another term. If Jim Finn decides no, the Conservation Commission will need to appoint another member to the Forestry Committee.

7. Next Meeting

- a. Next meeting is on June 15th at 7pm at the Community Development Meeting Room. This meeting will include the election of officers and orientation for new members.

8. Tree Stands

- a. Per the Town Forest's Bylaws, no tree stands can be left in the Town Forest after January 31st. Since the Bylaws did not take effect until March, the Committee discussed whether to do anything with the tree stands now or to wait until next year. The Committee decided that it will place notices on the tree stands prior to the start of hunting season, will take coordinates of the tree stands' location, and then will notify the Town after January 31st of any remaining tree stands.

9. Review Master Plan and Brainstorm 2017 Projects

- a. Committee briefly reviewed Master Plan with a focus on prioritizing 2017 projects with a focus on surveying property, access road gate, kiosks, bridges, and trail work.
- b. Preparation to Survey Boundaries: Jim Finn was going to check with Peter Zohdi. It is unknown if this took place.
- c. Trail System Improvements: There is no rush on kiosks, as the most important activities are to mark the loop trail and mark the connector trails. 3-Celler Hole Tour Trail and the Weston Access Trail are ongoing. The Spear Hill Road Access Bridge could be a part of the Wood Meadows discussion. Mountain Bike Trails is still on the table. Committee will explore handicap accessible trail options where possible.
- d. Forest Management, Maintenance, and Improvements: Committee is getting a new wildlife camera. Sponsored forest tours will be done after the trails are marked. Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Grant Submission will not be pursued at this juncture. Blooming at the UNHCE Wildflower Meadow Maintenance Site will likely not take place

this year. Duck boxes and historic improvements (e.g., clear out McIlvaine Cellar Hole Areas) are still on the table. Monitoring for invasive species is ongoing and Wanda would like to try to find the buckthorn again that was previously spotted in the Town Forest. There are still signs of OHRV activity in the Town Forest.

10. National Trails Day

- a. National Trails Day is Saturday, June 3rd.

Norm motioned to adjourn, Jim Fr. seconded. Motion passed 4-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.