

Windham Forestry Committee

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 19, 2016

ATTENDANCE:

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

Wanda called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

DISCUSSION:

Jim motioned to approve April meeting minutes, Norm seconded, Wayne abstained. Motion approved 4-0-1.

Pollinator habitat (wildflower meadow) planting project on landing – Wanda met with UNH Cooperative Extension staff and passed around plan for review. Wanda wonders if the Highway Dept. can help with cleanup of the area. The work will be part of a research study to look methods for planting logging landings with flowers. Norm motioned to proceed with UNH for pollinator habitat, Wayne seconded. Motion approved 5-0-0.

Mcllvaine Town Forest entrance and informational signs – WFC reviewed our layout and Wanda discussed using home machine to engrave signs. Norm wants to hear public input regarding what's needed for signs after the trail discussions.

NEW BUSINESS WITH PUBLIC INPUT:

Recent ATV use after April 14 – Wanda will follow up with conservation officer from NH Fish & Game. Residents wondered whom to call when they hear ATVs. Norm said to alert police to illegal activity for records.

Previously existing trails re-established near Bayberry, Weston & Osgood Roads – Wanda explained that we've put several hours of trail maintenance work in so far. Discussed possible new loop connecting the existing trails.

Trail(s) to build this summer – Resident inquired how to volunteer with trail work. Email the committee at forestry@windhamnh.gov or through the Forestry web site Contact Us form.

One resident concerned about people parking on their street and bad behavior occurring. Possible future dawn-to-dusk forest access and parking restriction was discussed. Wayne explained bylaws and restrictions on conservation land. Committee will be working on new bylaws for the McIlvaine Town Forest. Public off-street parking possibilities and costs were also discussed.

Norm explained how our warrant article missed the March 2016 ballot, resulting in no funding this year. Norm pointed out trailheads and cellar holes, and proposed trails on a map. Wayne also talked about the three cellar hole tour, which was commended by the Historic Commission.

Wanda explained the two patch cuts for more diverse wildlife habitat to an inquiring resident. Another resident wondered about parking area for cellar hole tours. Possibly near Simpson cellar hole. Discussed parking signage ideas. Considering updating the Walking in Windham brochure. Historic and Forestry could fund publication updates which may be done by a local boy scout troop.

Another resident suggested creating a mountain bike trail system sub-committee, with designated trails for bikes. Discussed refreshing signs after bylaws are changed. Norm motioned to make the new entrance signs as previously discussed, Jim seconded. Motion approved 5-0-0. Possible bylaw for discharge of firearms, as another resident reported it happening year-round.

Norm motioned to adjourn, Wayne seconded. Motion approved 5-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm.