

# Windham Forestry Committee

## Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)

Friday, July 1, 2016

### ATTENDANCE:

Wanda Rice – Chair  
Norman Babineau – Vice Chair  
Brian McFarland – Conservation Commission  
James Finn (excused) – Conservation Commission  
Jim Fricchione - Member

*Wanda called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm*

### DISCUSSION:

Welcome new committee members Jim Fricchione (resident) and Brian McFarland (new Conservation Commission representative).

Elected committee officers for 2016-2017. Norm motioned to reappoint Wanda Rice to be Chair, Jim seconded. Motion approved 3-0-1. Wanda motioned to reappoint Norm Babineau as Vice Chair, Jim seconded. Motion approved 3-0-1. Norm motioned to appoint Brian McFarland to be secretary with Jim Fricchione filling in on meeting minutes when needed, Wanda seconded. Motion approved 3-0-1.

Next meeting scheduled for August 12, 2016 at 1:00 in the CDD meeting room.

Norm motioned to approve May meeting minutes, Wanda seconded. Motion approved 2-0-2. Norm & Wanda vote to approve, Brian & Jim abstain since they were not on the committee at that time.

Pollinator habitat planting project on landing status.

Amy Papineau from UNH Coop Extension has planted test plots with winter pea and buckwheat cover crops. Some plots have been left untreated. The next step in the study will be to plant flower seeds in the fall. Amy gave us some buckwheat seed which we can use to plant a cover crop on the rest of the landing not involved in the study. Will be taking volunteers to help rake out the rest of the landing, pull red oak seedlings from the landing & plant buckwheat.

Distant Hill Gardens workshop 6/4. Norm summarized methodology for establishing wildflowers in areas where grass & weeds already exist. Repeatedly killing weed seeds for a full growing season using black plastic is the recommended method. Norm talked a little about buckthorn removal advice from the workshop. He got a herbicide applicator to use on cut stems, if we can locate the buckthorn that is supposedly on the southeast side of the property.

McIlvaine Town Forest entrance and informational signs.

We looked at the prototype of the plastic sign created by Wanda's son. We decided to change the font on the no motorized vehicle section for the future signs. We will also do an informational sign regarding the patch cut. Norm motion to move forward with making and installing signs, Wanda seconded. Motion approved 4-0-0.

We talked about possibly remove the current Bayberry Conservation Area signs and rework to say McIlvaine Town Forest. Norm motioned to recycle and reuse the existing sign boards if possible, seconded by Brian. Motion approved 4-0-0.

Tree farm signs. We discussed where to put the signs. More discussion on this will be in a future meeting.

Illegal hunting practices update.

The illegal deer bait in the south section has been covered and the camera removed. There is now a tree stand there. We discussed whether to leave a note for hunter regarding the trees he cut without permission. Perhaps introducing Forestry Committee as manager of the property. Brian will work on a letter to post on the tree stand to let the hunter know that this action is not allowed.

Trails updates.

Recent OHRV usage data indicates 4 out of 5 days monitored had at least 5 different motorized vehicles present on the property. There was discussion about an added sign from the direction they are coming from (Settlers Ridge area). There was discussion about putting a sign in the middle of the trail. It is felt there needs to be something that obstructs travel that would not be unsafe if hit. We also do not want to impede foot and bike travel. Norm made a motion to put a sign in the trail toward Settler's Ridge regarding OHRV use as soon as possible upon approval of language by committee. Second by Jim. Motion approved 4-0-0. Brian to work on sign wording and send around to the committee.

Brian said he would talk to Con Com about doing an article for the Windham Independent that would apply to properties under management of Con Com & Forestry and talk about illegal motorized vehicle use and allowed usage.

Upcoming trail work.

On the Weston trail, stone wall work needs to be done to allow easier entrance to the MTF trails. We need to remove low bushes that have grown in since our cleaning work in the early spring. Jim volunteered to work on the stone wall to create a walk through that would work with wheel

chairs (ADA compliant). A work day for those interested and willing to work with stone could be combined with brushing the Weston Trail. It was recommended that trail work be done during the hours when OHRV use is typical in the hope of catching the riders.

The other near term project is to start clearing the new trail link from Osgood to Weston.

CIP: Planning Board is currently taking requests for projects in excess of \$50,000. Board is asking for submissions of anything over \$25,000 that might be submitted if the threshold was lower. We will mention our surveying needs as a possible project that falls within the \$25,000-\$50,000 threshold.

#### Gypsy Moth update

The infested white oak at the Cemetery on the Hill has started to regrow leaves. Unfortunately, pupa have hatched and moths have taken flight. Due to the proximity of this infestation to the MTF, we should keep checking the MTF for egg masses. Wanda will send egg mass photos to committee members so they know what to look for.

#### Long range plan review and update

Norm gave an overview for new members and will send out the updated version.

Some discussion regarding creating bylaws. State regulations apply for things such as hunting & OHRV used, but for anything else we need rules for the property. We talked about additional restrictions or penalties we might want to add to state regulations. Committee members should look over bylaws for Conservation properties for ideas. We will brain storm bylaws at August meeting with the intent of moving forward with bylaws for the 2017 election cycle.

A bridge is needed over seasonal water on the trail toward Settlers Ridge. We talked about utilizing materials in the bridge to nowhere on the Weston trail.

Volunteer release of liability form crafted to be used for volunteers doing limited trail work. Norm crafted a form based on one used by the Trails Committee for work on the Rail Trail. Wanda will send to Dave Sullivan for feedback. Once okayed, we can use it for trail work events.

Forestry web page review and updates will be looked into by Norm. We need to update the Committee members list and the OHRV notice. Norm talked about Open Street maps & possibly utilizing it with a link on our page as a way for citizens to access maps.

Status of Lots 1100, 1300 1000A: this land was purchased by the State as part of the I-93 expansion mitigation. Brian said there had been an update on the property at a Con Com meeting. The State is not giving it to Fish & Game to manage. State talked about wanting to sell

the 274 acres to the town. There is also the possibility of state ownership with town management. Wanda stated she thought management by Forestry would be a good idea.

Discussed a possible \$25 donation to the American Forest Foundation in order to receive their Woodlands quarterly publication. Wanda will check with Dave, but we may need to wait until next year for funding.

Norm motioned to adjourn at 3:45, seconded by Wanda. Motion approved 4-0-0.