

Windham Forestry Committee

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, May 8, 2015

ATTENDANCE:

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

Wayne called meeting to order at 1:06 pm, Norm seconded.

DISCUSSION:

April's Meeting Minutes had a minor change by Norm. Wayne motioned to approve Minutes after that change, Jim seconded. Motion was approved 5-0-0.

Wanda suggested we compile a phone list of the committee members. Holly has collected the numbers and will distribute the list.

Wanda discussed the two options for harvest access through the old town dump. She reviewed the pros and cons of each, with either the landing at the dump or in the woods. Wayne preferred the landing at the dump to allow for a future trail to the McIlvaine foundation. Wanda pointed out issues with the landfill landing area and how much less disruption there would be to the landfill operations by utilizing a forest landing.

We discussed the upcoming BOS meeting and that Jack and Dave P. need to be happy with the ideas. Dave S. has given the selectmen a heads up.

Wanda said Dave P. has contacted DES about any restrictions, but hasn't heard back. Wayne motioned to put the bid out ASAP and Jim seconded. Norm opposed and says he wants more details first. Wayne amended his motion to get selectmen approval first, Jim seconded. Motion was approved 5-0-0.

Wanda is putting together information for the Technical Review Committee to review.

Norm worked on the forest abutter list, which is dependent on the landing site access we agree on. The office will mail out the letters in preparation for the Planning Board public hearing.

Wanda reported about 25% of the big trees will be harvested per forester tally sheet.

We discussed the timber tax and abatement. Town legal council suggests we cut first, then request tax abatement after paying the tax based on the harvest report, which is not customary. Typically towns just waive the tax. Wanda will follow up on the abatement process.

We reviewed the current property notice signs, property found to date, and discussed creating a new sign regarding the harvest. Wanda distributed Mike's example. Holly will make sign. Holly will also submit the current property notice sign in the Windham Independent to be run every other week.

The website with the new Forestry email is reported to be up and running.

We discussed the new forest name and decided we will only use it privately for now.

Wanda distributed her new article for the paper for review, and still needs a title. Wayne will work on next article naming the forest.

We discussed how to handle questions from the public during our site walks. Wayne said we should answer a few questions, then direct them to our website or have them attend a meeting, so we can finish the town business we are there for.

Wondered what constitutes a meeting, and if we need 24 hours notice to post. Often these site walks are last minute, and uncertain if quorum will be met. Norm mentioned we're bound by state RSAs concerning public meetings. Wayne and Wanda felt email updates of onsite discussions are sufficient. Norm will work on updating our Rules of Procedure for review.

Norm distributed the timeline and it looks up to date. We discussed the letter of intent, and need to wait for our access point before continuing. Discussed having an educational forest tour with Mike. Will wait until harvest begins to decide.

Committee terms were discussed, with Norm's expiring at the end of May. Norm wrote a letter to Dave S. for reappointment. Wanda also recommended him for another term.

Holly discussed her field walk of the Musquash Conservation area clearcut for cottontails, and its similarities and differences to our harvest. Wayne wants to consider a clearcut around the McIlvaine cellar hole to enable a three cellar hole trail tour. Wanda said clearcutting would require more maintenance. Norm would prefer the areas be maintained with trees along with the trail system. After the harvest we will reevaluate how best to handle the foundation/stone wall area and layout of a trail network. Possible eagle scout projects in the future.

Next meeting set for Friday, May 29 at 1:00 pm in the CDD room.

*Norm motioned to adjourn, Wayne seconded. Meeting adjourned at 2:51 pm.
Motion approved 5-0-0.*

Forest Management Timeline Update

EVENT	TIMING	OWNER	STATUS
Competitive bidding on forest management	Completed Fall 2014	Committee	BSF bid approved 12/5
Post tree hunting stands for removal	Completed Fall 2014	Wanda/Norm/Holly	2 Stands Posted, +1 at Osgood
Submit 2014 annual town/state reports	Completed Winter 2014-15	Norm/Wanda	Town and State submitted.
Removal of any remaining tree hunting stands	Completed Winter 2014-15	Norm/Wanda	2 Stands Removed 3/6
Letter to CCD for notification and technical review	Completed Winter 2014-15	Wanda	Wanda delivered
General article on town forest management benefits	Completed Winter 2014-15	Wanda	Wanda published
Mark trees to be harvested	Completed Spring 2015	Forester	Weeks of 3/16 - 4/21
Newspaper/web article about forest wildlife	Completed Spring 2015	Committee	Wanda published vernal pool info.
BOS approval to use Landfill for road access and landing	Spring 2015	Wanda/Committee	18-May
CDD Technical Review Committee	Spring 2015	Wanda/Committee	26-May
Planning Board public hearing	Spring 2015	Wanda/Committee	Abutter listings done. 6/17 Mtg.
Send out letters of intent to neighbors with forest tour?	Spring 2015	Forester	May not need after PB hearing.
Newspaper/web article with status and goals	Spring 2015	Committee	Wanda to publish "Silviculture"
Harvest logger bid process initiated	Spring/Summer 2015	Forester	
Review/approve logger bid.	Spring/Summer 2015	Committee	
Harvesting activities	Summer/Fall 2015	Forester/Logger	
Discussion of a 2016 town warrant article	Fall 2015	Committee	
2016 Budget request to fund meeting minutes taker	Fall 2015	Committee	
Submit 2015 annual town/state reports	Winter 2015-16		
Discussion on town forest by-laws	Summer 2016	Committee	State hunting rules, camping, dogs