

Windham Forestry Committee

MEETING MINUTES – FINAL

Friday, October 17, 2014

ATTENDANCE:

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

Meeting was called to order at 1:02 pm

DISCUSSION:

Wayne motioned to approve Meeting Minutes from September 26, all were in favor (5-0-0).

Norm shared notes from his tour of Bockes Forest in Londonderry and their biomass harvest. They are on a 12-year foresting cycle, leave snags for wildlife, and mature trees for future harvests. They have chosen to harvest ash trees before the emerald ash borers damage them. Norm noted how important a logger's skills are in minimizing damage, that wood product prices vary greatly, and the logger separates piles of product for different uses and destinations.

Dave Sullivan joined us and discussed legal council's opinion is that the Forestry Committee takes control of town forest designated properties, and that the BOS have no management authority. Also that the Conservation Committee has no management authority with the Forestry Committee in place. Dave, Wayne, and Jim agreed that this was not the intention of the Conservation Commission when the town forest was proposed. Wanda, Norm, and Holly concur they were not aware of the change in management authority. Dave offered two options:

1) The BOS leave the Forestry Committee as is, or 2) BOS goes back to town meeting for Conservation Committee to maintain authority with the Forestry Committee managing as the sub-committee. Both options would involve all monies going into the Forestry Fund, and requiring BOS approval. Any changes would begin on January 1, 2015.

After Dave left, the members of the Forestry Committee discussed at length the pros and cons of both options. Norm suggested we wait for the BOS meeting to get their opinion before making our decision. Norm motioned to establish a future meeting with all parties involved if needed, and all were in favor (5-0-0).

Wayne motioned to send out bids with amended dates to get the ball rolling. All were in favor except Norm (4-1-0), who wants a decision on who has final authority first. . The schedule was changed with bids now due November 21.

Norm passed around the tree stand removal notices he made, motioned to post on existing tree stand, all were in favor (5-0-0). Notices will be attached to tree stands ASAP, as hunting season is underway.

We reviewed the updated harvesting timeline and made some date changes.

Wanda and Norm are planning to attend "Forest Laws for Municipal Officials" workshops offered through UNH on Nov 18.

Cheryl Haas stopped by and talked about the free hunting signs we can obtain from the Landowners Relations Program. We made our selections and she will place the order.

Next meeting in date set for Friday, November 21 at 1:00 pm.

Wayne motioned to adjourn meeting at 2:57 pm, all were in favor.