

Windham Forestry Committee

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, December 18, 2015

ATTENDANCE:

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

Wanda called the meeting to order at 1:02.

DISCUSSION:

Wanda motioned to approve the Nov 20 Meeting Minutes, Norm opposed - wanted to decrease minutes' level of detail from November. Wanda suggested paring it down for next minutes. Norm also wants to add the Khan letter to Nov final minutes. Norm motioned to approve Nov minutes with the addition of Mr. Khan's letter, Wanda and Jim seconded. Motion was approved 4-0-0. Norm wants to cut and paste Wanda's reply letter to Dec minutes too.

Harvest update – Wanda says about three days of cutting left. Much left to skid out with clearing and removal of bumper trees, clear water crossings, clean up site and smooth out landing. Not as much quality pine as initially estimated.

For next newspaper articles, Wanda wants to write about local utilization of natural resources for timber products.

Forestry Fund report – Dave said we can inquire about funds whenever we want. Norm requested a report. Mike is going to keep checks from harvest until completion. Once the harvest is done, Baystate will deduct their fee and pay the Town the remainder of the stumpage.

Tree Farm designation – Wanda working on it after the harvest.

Dumping of invasive species, yard waste, and our response – Wanda reviewed letter and will include invasive species list. Norm showed new sign prohibiting yard waste disposal. Norm motions to send letter to Osgood resident about dumping. Wanda seconded. Motion approved 4-0-0.

Motorized OHRV vehicle usage planning – reviewed and discussed our neighbor education letter and how many to send out/which streets to include. Norm discussed database of getting names and addresses. Norm and Wanda will work on addressing.

Wanda motioned to put OHRV notice on town website and to send out letters as soon as possible, Norm seconded. Motion approved 4-0-0.

Forest pictures on our webpage – Norm wants actual photos of MTF online. Wanda wants the photos to be in the spring with new growth and cleaner site. Holly would like to include local wildlife photos.

NHTOA membership – Norm says \$25 for government membership. Jim wonders about negative connotations with the organization, and will review materials and research for next meeting.

Web page updates – Norm wants link from Conservation page to Forestry. Jim will look into updating their web page.

Trail planning process – Wanda wants to go out in winter to decide about trails and invite public and get their input. Norm inquired about ADA accessibility and will look into requirements.

Long-term project planning – we will start brainstorming future projects soon.

Norm reviewed Timeline and made updates.

Norm inquired about Conservation easements, Jim explained some for trail access and others for protection from development.

Norm discussed possible *forestry.gov* emails for the committee and will look into it with town IT.

Wanda motioned to adjourn, Jim seconded. Motion approved 4-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 2:31 pm.

Next meeting is planned for Friday, January 29 at 1:00 pm in the CDD room.

Forest Management Timeline Update (12/22/15)

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 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 info
BOS approval to use Landfill for access landing	Completed Spring 2015	Wanda/Committee	5/18 BOS meeting
Newspaper/web article with status and goals	Completed Spring 2015	Wanda	Wanda published Silviculture
CDD Technical Review Committee	Completed Spring 2015	Wanda/Committee	5/26 Meeting
Public Forestry Workshop & Education	Completed Spring 2015	Committee	6/2 Meeting
Planning Board public hearing	Completed Spring 2015	Wanda/Committee	6/17 Hearing
Post “No Motorized Vehicles” signs	Completed Spring 2015	Wanda	6/19 (4) signs
Harvest logger bid process initiated	Completed Summer 2015	Forester	6/23 Viewing
Remove hunting stand near Corliss	Completed Summer 2015	Wanda/Norm	6/29 Eric R. assisted
Approve logger high bid.	Completed Summer 2015	Committee	7/10 Meeting
Sign logger contract	Completed Summer 2015	Wanda	8/6 Signed contract
File intent to cut with town	Completed Summer 2015	Forester	Mike submitted
File wetlands impact forestry notification	Completed Summer 2015	Forester	Mike submitted, ok rec from DES
Harvesting activities	Fall 2015	Forester/Logger	Started in Nov
2016 town warrant article	Fall 2015	Committee	Wanda gave to Dave in Nov.
2016 Budget to fund memberships, workshops, etc.	Completed Fall 2015	Committee	Town \$ from existing budgets
Submit 2015 annual town/state reports	Winter 2015-16	Committee	