

Windham Forestry Committee

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, September 25, 2015

ATTENDANCE:

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

Wanda called meeting to order at 1:12 pm.

DISCUSSION:

Norm motioned to approve the July 10 Meeting Minutes, Wayne seconded. Motion was approved 4-0-0.

Wanda reported that she gave the deposit check to the town for deposit into the forestry fund. She will follow up. Norm wondered if we get statements from the account.

We discussed installing current forest management informational signs at the trailheads to coincide with the harvest. Holly will update sign for review and add hunting notice verbiage.

Wayne discussed his current article for the paper regarding town lands' frequent name changes. Holly thought an article on the health benefits of utilizing recreational space would be good and will work on that article.

Norm discussed the Rules of Procedure and the BOS' involvement in the approval process, and the Forestry Committee's handling of the town forest. Wayne motioned to approve the ROP, Wanda seconded. Motion approved 4-0-0.

Wayne reported that he is still waiting on the status of the assessor request to merge town lots.

Wanda discussed her site walk with Mike P. and the increased buffer around the Kahn property as requested.

We discussed the drone flight offer, and Wanda thought a progression of the managed forest regrowth would be interesting.

The 2016 forestry budget was discussed, with signage and trail work from the forestry fund being top priority, following with informational kiosks. Norm wondered if the funds could be used for

Forestry Committee training, classes, etc. We also discussed allocating some of the funds for a minute taker. Wayne motioned we request an operating budget of \$1,500, Wanda seconded. Motion approved 4-0-0. Wanda will follow up with Dave.

Wanda is following up on the Tree Farm designation of the forest.

More motorized vehicle signs will be added to the trailheads, possibly surveillance as well.

2016 CIP update – nothing new to report.

We discussed the necessity of becoming official volunteers of the forest, and Dave needing approval from the BOS. Wanda motioned that Wayne Morris, Norm Babineau, Jim Finn, Holly Hanford Oliver, and herself, all become volunteers. Wayne seconded. Motion approved 4-0-0.

Wanda reported on the BOS approval of the Forestry Rules of “Appointment” on 8/10/15.

Norm stated that Phantom Crossfit requested to have a trail race in a Windham town forest. Holly is concerned about destruction of property and littering by so many competitors and spectators, and wonders how these potential issues can be avoided.

Norm reviewed the timeline, and wants to remove the by-laws discussion for now.

Wanda and Norm have signed up for the NHTOA class, “Birds, Bucks, and Bunnies.”

Wayne motioned to adjourn, Norm seconded. Motion approved 4-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 2:24 pm.

Next meeting is planned for Friday, October 23 at 1:00 pm in the CDD room.

Forest Management Timeline Update (9/25/15)

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
Harvesting activities	Fall 2015	Forester/Logger	
Send out letters to neighbors for a forest tour	Fall 2015	Forester/Committee	Post harvest?
Discussion of a 2016 town warrant article	Fall 2015	Committee	Wanda to check process
2016 Budget request to fund minutes taker, etc.	Fall 2015	Committee	Wanda to submit to Dave
Submit 2015 annual town/state reports	Winter 2015-16	Committee	