



OLD VALUES - NEW HORIZONS

WINDHAM FORESTRY COMMITTEE

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www.WindhamNH.gov/committees/forestry-committee

Minutes for February 18, 2021 (DRAFT)

Virtual Zoom Meeting - Public Invited to Attend – 7:00pm

Public to please email forestry@windhamnh.gov for access information

Call to Order at 7:02pm

- a. In attendance: Wanda Rice (Chair), Norm Babineau (Vice Chair), Brian McFarland (Secretary), and Dave Curto. Jake Cross was absent.

1. Approve Prior Meeting Minutes (12/17/20)

- a. Brian made a motion to approve December 17, 2020 meeting minutes. Wanda seconded the motion. **Motion passed 4-0-0.**

2. 2021 Spring Planting at the Meadow

- a. Last year's planting was tough due to drought (i.e., its hard to predict growing seasons);
- b. Wanda suggested planting sunflowers. Norm made a motion to spend not more than \$20 on flower seeds. Dave seconded the motion. **Motion passed 4-0-0;**
- c. Wanda ordered elderberry seedlings for herself and the leftover seedlings will be planted in the Town Forest.

3. Nest Boxes

- a. The Committee discussed wood duck boxes for the beaver pond;
- b. Wanda researched wood duck boxes. The boxes are usually placed on a tree or on a pole. A pole in the middle of pond might be a bit difficult and it might be better to attach the box to a dead tree and install a critter guard on the bottom. The boxes require some maintenance to clean out and put down wood shavings before the nesting season. This could be done once a year, when the pond is frozen;
- c. Norm also do some research on wood duck boxes and expressed concerns about the initial costs, installation, and ongoing cleaning which could involve monthly cleanings to remove other species that enter the boxes. In addition, the wood ducks might need more space (i.e., around 10 acres), there could be hunting pressures on the ducks, and Ducks Unlimited says there is a less than 50% success rate for boxes in the Northeast;
- d. The Committee decided to forego installing wood duck boxes;
- e. The Committee also discussed song bird boxes at the landing;
- f. Norm says the proposed area is more of a managed area by the meadow (i.e., less of a "natural area") and the song birds are not a hunted species;
- g. In Wanda's yard, blue bird boxes were mounted on top of a pole and the pole was driven in by a sledgehammer. The box is almost a predator guard by itself and Wanda has not had issues with predators;
- h. Norm suggests purchasing a predator guard to be on the safe side;

- i. A total of 3 or 4 boxes is suggested (4 at the most). The cost of nice boxes with predator guards is approximately \$50-\$60 per box. Norm made a motion to spend up to \$200 for 3 bird boxes of different sizes. Brian seconded the motion. **Motion passed 4-0-0.**

4. Invasive Species Update

- a. There are no new updates on the invasive species treatment, which is on hold until Spring when the permitting process will start.

5. Trail Maintenance Update

- a. Norm and Wanda recently went out to remove a tree;
- b. Norm noticed a hung-up, dead tree near the Weston easement intersection. Norm researched tree removal techniques and this removal seems fairly basic. This is likely a project for the Spring and Norm will keep the Committee posted on a date;
- c. Norm proposed a future trail from the loop to the wildflower meadow, which would also be close to the McIlvaine cellar hole. Wanda suggests the Committee start looking into the proposed trail this Summer. The Committee discussed the possibility of hiring someone to blaze the trail, to maybe place a 2022 ballot measure, and Dave said he could recommend someone who frequently helps the Conservation Commission with trail and tree work.

6. Annual Forestry Committee Rules of Procedure Review

- a. The Committee reviewed the Forestry Committee Rules of Procedure, which were approved September 25, 2015;
- b. Wanda made a motion to make no changes to the Forestry Committee Rules of Procedure. Dave seconded the motion. **Motion passed 4-0-0.**

7. Other Items

- a. Norm asked Dave for an update on the Southern NH Regional Planning Commission's mapping project;
- b. Dave informed the Committee that Deer Leap is complete, Route 28 Town Forest is complete, and Foster's Pond is now being edited;
- c. After the three maps are complete, payment will be due (i.e., payment was already approved by the Conservation Commission), and then the Southern NH Regional Planning Commission will finish the remaining maps.

Norm motioned to adjourn; Dave seconded. Motion passed 4-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:39pm.