

MINUTES OF FORESTRY COMMITTEE OF March 11, 2019

Present: Graham Pendlebury, Tom Miller, Michael Constance, Kim DiPietro, Dave Kent, Willard Dodge, Jeff Briggs, Joe Constance.

Absent: Carter Brown

K. DiPietro moved to accept minutes with corrections. M. Constance seconded. The vote was unanimous.

There was no Treasurer's report.

Tom Miller reported that all appropriate paperwork for the Todd lot has been submitted and the area is now officially a Tree Farm.

Tom also inquired as to the progress Maralyn Segien was making on the Forestry Committee papers that need to be properly filed. Several Committee members urged her to finish as soon as possible. Tom and Joe said they would inquire the next day to see how much time she has been able to spend on the project. Tom also stated that he is continuing mapping work upstairs in Town Hall.

Tom also reported that he had walked the Sherburne lot with the County Forester at some length the previous Friday (March 8, 2019). If the area is to contain a wildlife refuge it needs to have four zones which would be the old gravel pit area, the hemlock grove in southeast corner, the northwestern side (which would be managed via small cuts 1/10 of an acre or less) and the wetland area. Tom suggested the Committee seek to limit further activity of the Highway department to prevent erosion of the banking area that overlooks the wetland. The line suggested would be roughly 100 feet short of where the Highway now proposes to stop digging.

K. DiPietro then made a motion that the Forestry Committee request the Town Administration and the Highway department stop excavation of sand at pit at least fifty feet from the highest point of the existing ridge northeast and south, to prevent wind throw and subsequent erosion. G. Pendlebury seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Tom then noted that New Hampshire DES requires that pits need to be reclaimed when excavation is concluded. Tom recommended cleaning up some of the rubbish that has been left on the banking then leave the pit to be reseeded naturally, noting that wild flower areas are great places for deer and birds. Other alternatives include more standard reclamation where certain areas are levelled and seeding is done. The downside of seeding is that it needs to be mowed every year. All members were in favor of the wildlife area with waste cleanup. Parking also needs to be addressed. It would also make a great bird watching area.

All were in favor of wildlife area, naturally reseeded with clean up included. Tom suggested the area could be a great place for Eagle Scout projects. Tom will proceed to finish the write up for the area.

Graham noted that several Committee appointments need to be made and/or updated. Everyone should file papers with the Town Hall.

Tom reported that he is still looking into the sixth grade forest walk with the County Forester. Stratford County has a good program in place where the walk progresses through the woods to various stations. We can add our own stops to the program as necessary. Tom has asked that three County Foresters conduct the walk with our volunteers to assist. The students would pursue tree identification, soils content and boundary identification. We would do the walk at the Lydia Dodge lot. Joe noted that he had spoken to Principal Underwood at NBCS once and will urge her to get in touch with Tom very soon.

Tom reported that the Christmas Trees are ordered. He is also now a member of the New Hampshire Extension Service Advisory Board.

The date for the next meeting date was set for Monday April 8, at 5:30 OM.

Graham made a motion to adjourn at 6:32 PM. M. Constance seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Constance