



## ***Town of Weare Conservation Commission***

**15 Flanders Memorial Road**

**Weare, NH 03281**

**Fax: (603) 529-4554**

**Email: [conservation@weare.nh.gov](mailto:conservation@weare.nh.gov)**

**Website: [www.weare.nh.gov](http://www.weare.nh.gov)**

### **Conservation Commission**

Andrew Fulton, Chairman  
Stephen Najjar, Vice Chair  
Michael Dahlberg, Secretary  
George Malette  
Wendy Stevens

### **CONSERVATION COMMISSION – DECEMBER 12, 2012 MEETING MINUTES draft**

Meeting called to order at 7:13 PM by Chairman Fulton.

Andy Fulton, Steve Najjar, Wendy Stevens, and George Malette present.

Guests included Jeremy Turner (Meadowsend Timberlands, town forester).

#### **I. Jeremy Turner re town forester quarterly summary report**

Jeremy spoke to the conversion of a young pine stand in the Charles and Ethel Eastman Conservation Area Town Forest to early successional or field habitat. The pine is about 20 years old and the habitat is can be re-established and maintained by mowing. In 2012 John Brown using a dual-engine bronto converted about 1 acre per day, leaving a rough chip surface. The trees are essentially mulched in place. 2 acres were mowed for \$3,200 this year. Steve mentioned that the Town single engine bronto did about ½ acre couple yrs ago. Jeremy estimated about 12 acres of early pine remains

Jeremy briefed the CC regarding the status of town forest harvests. Felch harvest unit 3 is ongoing. Two bids were received and were very tight. The harvest was awarded to High Tech, which holds the intent to cut. Jeremy met with Tim Redman regarding the new driveway permit requirements for harvests. A stone access drive has been established outside the gate to the transfer station. The awarded stumpage is approximately \$50K. It's a good yield, working on his ninth day there, good ground conditions, maybe \$40K to town forest account, should be paid by mud season/end of April.

Jeremy provided budget numbers for working up the Wood Family Forest including a management plan to tie into the Town Forest Master Plan and boundary maintenance. Steve mentioned and the CC discussed the need to survey off the conservation area vs. the ball field. Jeremy is to make a boundary description with exclusion of the fields. The CC decided that there was no need to beef up the price for a survey based on available and reviewed Registry of Deeds information (bk 7264 pg 2587, plan 33000). Jeremy is to base his work on the lot line adjustment description of the parcel sold by the Wood Family to the Town.

Jeremy and the CC considered another option rather than bronto on the Eastman TF early pine. Jeremy described using a feller buncher to clear the land and to make piles of the cut pine, maybe trying on five acres. There would be an option to burn or leave the piles or some combination thereof. Jeremy has received pricing from a local outfit to cut and pile at \$3k/day for about 5 acres/day (resulting in an expense of \$6K for the remaining 10 acres with a Harvester 500 vs. \$13K for John Brown bronto treatment). Concern was raised about the potential size of the piles as well as the diameter of the pine. Steve mentioned that we're getting close to having pines greater than 4-inch diameter, the state limit on burning.

Wendy inquired about the purpose of this work. Jeremy responded that it is to establish and maintain a permanent opening in the forest. Wendy mentioned that a local resident walked with her in the town forest and mentioned that they are cleaning up the earlier harvest mess, apparently meaning slash, some of which is typically left behind on skidder trails following a harvest. All agreed that more education regarding forestry standards and practices would be a good thing. Jeremy noted that the Felch Farm harvest area could be a

good venue for an educational forestry walk. Steve noted that there is a lot of misperception. Leaving some branches behind is not a bad thing.

Jeremy presented a proposed 2013 budget of \$15K total for forestry items.

Additional forester items discussed included maintenance of access points by installation of new gates – for instance instead of the stone pile across Ferrin access road. Delane Brown mentioned to Steve that he needs ATV access to stock Ferrin Pond with trout. Jeremy mentioned that a gate may be needed at Felch Farm town forest to control vehicle access from Peaslee. It was not clear whether barricade vs. gates would be the way to go. Since there is a new egress/ingress for the latest Felch Farm town forest harvest, from Merrill Road, a gate would be most appropriate in that location. In addition a cable gate for going into Eastman or after the log landing should be considered. Jeremy priced a heavy steel gate at \$1,200 plus installation for a total >\$2K. He recommends one at Merrill Road for sure and the CC agreed that in this highly visible and well traveled location it would have a chance of remaining intact.

Steve discussed a forester article that would cover the Wood Family Forest management plan (\$5K) and boundary work (\$3K), (\$6.5K?), if go to \$20K total we would have \$5.5K for or other items such as additional fielding at the Eastman Conservation Area Town Forest. Steve proposed a 2013 forestry article using the same warrant article language as last year. Steve made motion a \$20K verbatim article, George seconded, and all voted in favor.

Steve then proposed and Jeremy agreed to prepare a 2012 forester's activities report for presentation to the CC by Jan 11<sup>th</sup> for inclusion in the Town annual report.

Jeremy mentioned that the Bartlett Brook timber sale is scheduled for 2013, the timber is marked, it is ready for showing, and the invitation to bid will be mailed out before year end. The harvest is on approximately 90 acres, should gross approx \$15K, and consists of oak and hemlock mainly, with some pine.

Andy suggested that in light of possible new town forest land acquisition in 2013 we might consider proposing another warrant article to make some Town Forest Account funds available. Steve made motion for a warrant article to commit \$35K from the Town Forest Account toward town forest land acquisition in 2013, Wendy seconded, and all voted in favor.

## **II. Review and approve minutes of October 2012 meeting**

George motioned and Steve seconded approval of the amended October 10, 2012 meeting minutes. All voted in favor.

## **III. PLANNING BOARD:**

1. The CC had no comment regarding a proposal for a paved driveway in the business park.

## **IV. NH DES/WETLANDS BUREAU, ETC. CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. Andy noted a request for additional information from the Town regarding permit application for glass removal at Chase Park.

## **V. OTHER ITEMS:**

1. The commission discussed the Conservation web page work that Wendy has undertaken. Wendy is working on upgrades and updates, gathering information, and working with Tina to make the conservation pages more complete, informative, and engaging. The draft pages were well received and improvements greatly appreciated. George passed along his comments.

*Conservation Commission Minutes*

*December 12, 2012*

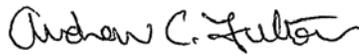
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*Page 3 of 3*

2. Andy mentioned that he expected there was a Banks warrant article going forward through BOS with an anticipated request for voter approval of \$200K towards the purchase of the land outright.
3. George reminded the commission that the Durgins had emailed about some wetlands concerns and Andy agreed that he needs to get back to them to discuss whether the wetlands were delineated, and whether they are within the easement or on their residential lot.
4. Andy said he would email Alex Lescarte regarding the spring or summer schedule for crossing construction on Mountain Road.
5. Steve noted that there is a mess on Oliphant land adjacent to the town forest land that is not related to any prior logging damage on the town forest itself. It appears that the new owners of the Oliphant property have stumped through a seasonal stream that drains onto the town forest property. This appears to be a wetlands violation, and there is some sediment coming across the property line. Andy said he would make an informal inquiry with DES wetlands folks.
6. George reminded Andy to bring in large plat NRI map originals from Kane and Ingram.

**VI.** Steve motioned and George seconded meeting adjournment at 9:44 PM.

A true record,



Andrew C. Fulton  
WCC Chair