



Date: 3/22/2023

Attendees:

- Scott Pim
- Liz Wilson
- Ben Bade
- Jeff Leombruno
- Dan McCombs
- John Scully

Absent:

- Gabe Porter
- Joe Trombly

Forestry Committee

- Jerry Langdon joined us to talk about the Forestry Committee. Jerry provided some history as to how and why we have a Forestry Committee. Jerry mentioned we have 3 properties that are in the NH Tree Farm system. To be in the Tree Farm system, you have to have an active management plan which needs to be completed by an NH state licensed forester.
- George H Fall property has been harvested twice. John Hoar property has been harvested once. Lowe Park was harvested 3 or 4 years ago.
- Charlie Moreno (<http://morenoforestry.com/>) is our forester.
- Scott questioned what difference it makes if we have a property in the Tree Farm program. Jerry being in the Tree Farm system requires you to have a management plan and keep it updated. He said it's good for the longevity of the property, because the plan for the property can outlive changes on local boards.
- Scott questioned if you have to pay for a plan? Jerry confirmed you do.
- Liz questioned who approves the plan? Jerry American Tree Farm approves them.
- Jerry said every 10 years you are required to update your management plan, but you are required to do an inspection every 5 years. If you don't keep up you can be de-certified.
- Jerry said in NH having the certification doesn't mean much, but in other states you can only sell certified wood. However, it's still good to achieve their standards.

- Scott questioned if we added more properties as Tree Farms, which properties would he recommend? Jerry said they'd like to add Fox Run, but there are problems with access to the property.
- Ben questioned where the funding comes from for the tree farm plan? Jerry said in the past, the harvests have always covered the cost of the plan.
- Liz questioned what drives the contents of the plan? Jerry said there are four themes - wood, recreation, wildlife habitat, and water.
- Jeff questioned the cost of a plan. Jerry said on his property, it cost about \$2400. Jerry mentioned that he's able to get federal funding to help with his plan, but as a municipality we wouldn't qualify for that.
- Jeff questioned the logistics of how we would pay for it and where the revenues would go. Jerry said in the past, the forester took his fees for the plans out of the revenue from the harvest, and any left over revenue goes into the general fund.
- Scott mentioned that it's part of the charter of the Conservation Commission that we have to manage the town forests.
- Scott questioned next steps. Jerry said he'd like to see the TSI (Timber Stand Improvement) work done at George H Fall Woods. Jerry said we should be able to tell him if the Hoar property needs invasive species assistance. And he'd like to do a harvest at Fox Run, and use those funds to do a management plan and get it added to the Tree Farm program.
- Jerry said there are records for when all the plans have been updated and properties certified. Liz asked where the records are stored? Jerry said the ECC has no copies, but Rita Carroll at the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests would be able to assist.
- Liz questioned the goals of a harvest at Fox Run. Jerry said it would be to keep the white pine population growing. Jerry said we also have pitch pine growing there, which is very unique and wildlife likes it.
- The Commission continued discussion after Jerry left, regarding the thought of trying to find other landowners in town who are part of the Tree Farm program to potentially get involved in the town Forestry Committee.

PROPERTIES

- Property Monitoring
 - What is our responsibility as an org - tabled to next meeting.
- Fox Run additional table
 - Dan spoke to Dan Harvey yesterday. Dan will provide direction on where to put the new table.

ADMIN

- CC board reorg
 - Liz was nominated to be Chairman, vote passed. Congrats Liz!
 - Gabe was nominated to be Vice Chairman, vote passed. Congrats Gabe!
 - Jeff was nominated for Secretary, vote passed. Congrats Jeff!
 - Dan was nominated for Treasurer, vote passed. Congrats Dan!
- Antioch Internship - Liz
 - No update.
- NHACC membership approval
 - We voted to approve this in December. Dan will let the town know it can be paid.
- LUCT fund update
 - Warrant article passed!
 - Gabe was curious about how spending decisions were managed - the Commission would need to go to the Selectmen with any requests to spend money from that fund.
- Budget update – Dan
 - Dan said we still don't have updated numbers from the town.
- Tech – Dan
 - Dan renewed the website domain.
 - Jeff questioned if we should put minutes on our website vs the town website, Dan said we could set up access to do that.
- Outreach – John & Liz
 - Projects for Boy Scout troops – tabled to next meeting.
 - Ben mentioned it would be good if we had a list of possible projects that were ready to go when we get asked for volunteer opportunities.
- Jeff questioned if we could do something about either meeting location or table setup to make it easier to hear. Scott talked to ETV and we'll try a different configuration next meeting.

ADJOURN

- Meeting adjourned at 8:18.