

Board of Selectmen's Meeting  
May 9, 2012

Ms. Ness announced that the Board would not be holding its regular meeting because of difficulties in complying with the Open Meeting Law. However, a report prepared by Lynn Rose would be heard, as it did not involve decision making.

**Open Space Committee** – Present: Lynn Rose, Paul Kenzero (?) UMASS students, and several interested persons.

Ms. Rose said she had applied for and received a forest stewardship grant. She attended a 3 day training session of the Keystone Forestry Program put together by Paul Kenzero (?) a professor at UMASS.

One of the first things she did was obtain a list and map of parcels of town-owned land. She selected a 63 acre wooded parcel that was on an existing trail, adjacent to other town-owned land. UMASS students had prepared an inventory of the selected parcel.

The students were in attendance to present their report. The parcel was described as a ridge on the eastside of Pocumtuck flowing toward the Connecticut River. It has thin soil that supports an intact hardwood forest. The canopy trees including red oak. Understory vegetation is mountain laurel and low bush blueberries. In a ledgy area peregrine falcons were found. The largest animal group noted is deer. Recommendations for managing the forest include community outreach through things like guided forest walks. Located near Eaglebrook, the property could be a great educational resource. An informational kiosk would be a good idea.

Following the presentation, persons in attendance were given the opportunity to ask questions. There was discussion about encouraging private landowners to become involved in developing stewardship plans for their forested areas and to further encourage the town to frame plans for managing its forested areas by working with service foresters. A website: masswoods.net would be helpful to those seeking information.

Suggestions: Landowners along Pocumtuck Ridge should be invited to get together. Mr. Kubiak reported there is legislation in the works that would permit use of CPA funds for trail maintenance, kiosks, etc. Ms. Ness said the DCR (Dept. of Conservation and Recreation) commissioner is coming out to look over the Stillwater situation and could possibly be approached about this area at that time. Ms. Clarke thought it would be important to take a step back and look at the big picture in order to prepare a balanced plan. Comments were made about people leaving trash all over, trespassing, and liability issues that are concerns of landowners. Ms. Rose said a state consulting forester could help to provide understanding of the report.

Ms. Rose said she was willing to host a couple of more meetings and could use some help. She will set a date for another meeting. Interested persons are invited to attend.

Respectfully submitted,  
Priscilla Phelps

