

**Forestry Forum
Participant Feedback
Jun 24, 2009**

Like

- Intention to improve forest health.
- Balancing income against with good biological and ecological practice.
- American Tree Farm certification.
- Glad to see the issue addressed proactively (not neglected).
- The educational opportunities for students.
- It's an organized management plan.
- Eye opening topics.
- Public access and recreational opportunities.
- Staggered harvesting.
- Using certified forester and loggers.

Concerns

- What impact will there be on existing recreational use?
- How long does this process last?
- What's the big picture? What will be the impact on the larger Falmouth and regional ecosystem?
- Need to communicate this plan to other residents (to increase public awareness and education)?
- Ecological and recreational priorities should come first, not income.
- Will there be sufficient oversight and supervision of the harvesting?
- Pollution that would result from increased woodburning.
- No specific plan for invasive control.
- No defined parameters for trail use – what will be allowed and not allowed (e.g. ATVs).
- The timing of any harvesting work.

Missing

- Wildlife habitat/wildlife inventory.
- Wetland protection / vernal pools.
- Connection with Portland Trails
- No. of acres of Falmouth land in the Tree Growth program.
- How do we manage public safety during the logging process?
- Who will maintain trails, monitor properties, etc.

Advice

- Be ready to explain that the primary benefit of harvesting to the town is healthy forests.
- Dedicate any revenue earned back to the program.
- Conduct a wildlife inventory before beginning.
- Put up signs identifying these properties.
- Put some effort into marketing, educating people about this work.
- Address how the wetland and vernal pool areas will be dealt with.
- Apply the highest standards to this work, go slowly.
- Consider the time of year when any harvesting would happen.
- Educate people about the invasives problem and develop a plan for controlling them.
- Leave an area unaltered, in its “natural” state.
- How can we use this process/practice as a template for educating other forest owners?
- Don't burden taxpayers.
- Sponsor field trips to each forest before harvesting.
- Very important to use certified logger/licenses forester.
- Balance harvesting with preserving quality open space.

Additional Comments

- Website
- Needs to be a “party” when you get there.
- Invasive plant sheet or information for property owners to ID & manage.
- Educational opportunity for schools,.
- I question the premise of this program. My feeling about the acquisition of these lands is that they were acquired primarily for recreational and ecological value.

I am not necessarily opposed to harvesting, but I don't think income should be the primary driver.

I think more work should be done on assessing the ecological value of the land – a biological inventory.

And if the purpose of the plan is to manage vegetation, a plan for dealing with invasives should be developed.

All that said, you've done a great job of bringing people together and encouraging dialog, as usual.

Results of the “voting” exercise:

