

LPLCC Building Committee Site Walk May 29, 2013

Committee Members Present: Chuck Cox, Tobin Farwell, Paul Gasowski, Leslie Martin, Katrinka Pellicchia, Zach Smith, Sharon Taylor. Others Present: Annie Gasowski, Cynthia Giguere-Unrein, library trustees; Carole Dennis, Select Board representative; Julie Glover, Town Administrator; Walter Rous, Clerk of the Works for the Durham Public Library building project; Don Quigley, professor of forest technology at UNH's Thompson School of Applied Science

Don described this particular stand of trees on the site as very common; the soil is shallow organic matter and deep sandy soil, the kind pitch bark pine thrives in. The forest is only 40 to 50 years old, it was probably logged and used as pasture when Granger owned the gravel pit. Pine, a few oak. Heath under pine over story, not a rare habitat, replicated frequently in town – 35 acres of the Maud Jones forest are very similar to this. The soil is not nutritious: trees will get good diameter growth, but not height-- the trees are currently about as tall as they will get. The next generation of growth would be beech and oak. It's a good site for construction: the ground is level and sandy, there are no surface water issues, the southern exposure allows for solar. A smattering of test pits needs to be done – for the building, septic and drainage.

Because of the sandy soil, it would be advisable to remove all the trees within the footprint of the building and parking lot – in order to have a safe zone for construction. The remaining trees should be arranged in irregular islands, not rows, but pockets of undisturbed trees. This would be a good opportunity to plant more suitable trees and bushes. There are some examples of American chestnut, especially in the corner near the Bricker house and 155 – it would be good to preserve those, keeping them shouldn't interfere with the project.

Re using some of the harvested trees as lumber – it can be difficult to time, as logs should be milled soon after cutting. It may not be cost effective; consult with Ricky Stevens.

The setbacks and parking needs will determine exactly where the building is sited. When cutting a road, there should be a tapered edge of trees. Zoning setbacks don't necessarily apply to town properties.

There seems to be good visibility for in-and-out traffic; NHDOT needs to get involved as soon as possible.

There was discussion of the possibility of having underground wires; the number of the nearest electric pole was noted – to see if this area belongs to PSNH or the Co-op.

Walter Rous said that the Durham Library hired a Commissioning Agent, a third-party consultant whose role is to identify possible operation, installation, testing, and performance issues long before they become a construction issue, verifying proper installation, operation, and performance based on the project design. This was going well, in fact Durham is making it a requirement on construction projects.