

## Minutes of Forestry Committee for February 12, 2018

Present: Tom Miller, Carter Brown, Graham Pendelbury, Kim Dipietro, Joe Constance, Willard Dodge

Tom Miller called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM

Past minutes and those of January 8 were reviewed and approved with minor corrections.

Treasurer's report: C. Brown presented Treasurer's report and noted that all past discrepancies on the check register have been clear up. The report was approved unanimously.

T. Miller asked if the article to increase the sum of money that could be retained by the Forestry Committee was on the ballot. J. Constance responded that it was not. After some discussion and an explanation by Town Administrator Peter Flynn, the Committee decided to put the article on the ballot for the following year.

T. Miller reported that he and Graham would try and examine a red pine stand near the Transfer station for a potential cut soon. He said it would be at least a day's work. Tom also noted that the Extension Service had sent him an example of timber sale contract for Red pine as well as a pamphlet explaining details of standard contracts. He also received a letter from the County Forester as to what he would like to see added to plan for Colby and Follansbee.

The Forester believed that the plan for the Colby lot needs more detail and asked specifically how the committee will inspect and deal with disease so future committees can keep utilizing this method to sustain the forests. The Committee discussed alternatives to monitoring and cutting cognizant of the fact that these are public lands where long term stewardship is involved. Tom also stated the Forester did not like old method of logging; he prefers clearing whole plots and let surrounding trees re-seed. The Committee discussed this method "patch cutting" and expressed some concerns regarding which species might be replaced and if the pines would actually flourish in such an environment; pines being of critical importance since there is always a market.

T. Miller said what he would prefer the Town to use as a method of “single tree selective system”, one which focuses on cutting trees with market value, those with disease, or those otherwise not suitable for the management plan. The Committee supported this concept unanimously. T. Miller said that he and J. Constance would re-write the plans to better comply with the requirements of the County Forester.

K. DiPietro then asked if she could remove herself a full time member of the Committee but to retain the authority to keep current trails clear. She also expressed a concern about doing field work at this point. J. Constance suggested that she stay as a full time member and not do field work as there were enough people to do so now and that her work with deed research was most important. The Committee supported this proposal and K. DiPietro agreed.

T. Miller then noted that he had ordered the Christmas trees for planting. They will be seedling approximately 4-7 inches high.

T. Miller stated that he had also asked the County Forester about re-foresting certain areas but the Forester recommended that we do not undertake any such projects until the management plans are done. T. Miller then recommended the Committee formulate a plan for another town forest. K. DiPietro suggested the Sherburn Forest and the Committee agreed.

The next meeting was set for March 12.

K. DiPietro moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 and t. Miller seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM

Respectfully submitted

J. Constance