

Washington Forestry Committee

Minutes of Meeting, 05/17/2016

Minutes Washington Forestry Committee Meeting of May 17, 2016:

1.0 Assembly:

- 1.1 The meeting was called to order at the Washington Town Hall at 4:09 pm.
- 1.2 Members Present: Tom Burt, Steve Hanssen, Al Krygeris, Pete Martin, and Tom Taylor (Chairman).
- 1.3 Guests: Anita Blakeman, Forestry Consultant

2.0 Minutes: Previous Special Meeting of June 11, 2015

- 2.1 Tom Burt moved to accept the minutes as written. Pete Martin seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion.

3.0 Business Topic: Anita Blakeman Contract

- 3.1 It was reported that the Anita Blakeman consulting contract had expired at the beginning of May 2016. It was also noted that the Consultant's work effort has not been affected by this lapse in the term of the contract. After a short discussion of the alternatives, it was decided that the most expeditious means of formalizing the continuing business relationship was via a contract extension. Tom Burt moved that the Forestry Committee extend the Anita Blakeman contract. Pete Martin seconded this motion, including a suggestion that all contractual terms and conditions remain unchanged except that the expiration date be extended to 30 June 2017.
- 3.2 Ms. Blakeman was requested to prepare a draft amendment to extend this (WFC) contract then forward this draft contract extension to the Washington Forestry Committee Chair, Tom Taylor. The WFC members authorized Tom Taylor to, upon his satisfaction with the extension document, to sign this amendment on behalf of the WFC.

4.0 Business Topic: Web Page Publication of the preliminary Revised Master Plan:

- 4.1 Ms. Blakeman provided the Committee with a thumb-drive containing the latest draft of the updated Forestry Master Plan. Al Krygeris said he would enlist the help of the appropriate Town Website expert to post this version to our website. This will provide an opportunity for viewing of this documents and its proposed update by all Town Boards, Committees, Commissions, and Departments, as well as Washington property owners an opportunity. All comments received will be evaluated by the WFC and, if deemed beneficial, incorporated into the plan. It was suggested that a copy of the Draft contract also be sent to Allen Krygeris, who has been a long-term, generous contributor to the WFC's efforts.
- 4.2 Anita informed the group that a site plan showing the soil plan of the Farnsworth Hill lot would shortly be forwarded to WFC. (See Attachment A, received 18 May 2016.)

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5.0 **Business Topic:** Proposed Forest Management Cutting; Farnsworth Hill Forest

5.1 Anita Blakeman briefed the group on her progress in organizing the proposed forest management cutoff the Farnsworth Hill lot. (See Attachment B.) On her recent visits to this site, she has been marking trees to designate them for removal. She reported to the WFC members that some forested sections of the lot, when combined, should yield about fifty thousand board feet of dimensional lumber. Other areas of the lot are suitable only for processing into wood chips.

In all, she advised the Committee that the proposed cutting should be viewed as a forest management effort aimed at improving habitat and reducing overall fire risk, with an overall benefit of providing a healthier forest for future citizens of the Town of Washington. Anita emphasized that this project should not be viewed as a current generator of significant income.

5.2 Anita took the opportunity to review with the WFC members the logger's proposed access to the property as well as the anticipated involvement of Washington's Public Works Department, in implementing roadway stabilization and access improvements. Based on her experience in this region, she expressed substantial respect for the Town of Washington's Public Works capabilities. Anita singled out and praised Ed Thayer for his professionalism and recognizable competence. The group confirmed that \$10,000.00 was now available from different sources to purchase materials for roadway improvements to the nearby sections of Old Marlow Road. About \$5,000.00 of this will be applied to the enhancing the lot access between an existing log landing located on the site and the top of Farnsworth Hill. A protective shoreline buffer of 100 feet of trees and native growth will be left in place wherever logging activity is to occur in the vicinity of the Ashuelot River. It now appears that Ed Thayer's summer work schedule shows Old Marlow Road improvement work to start in June 2016 and indicates the project could take about two weeks to complete.

6.0 **Business Topic:** Logger Selection: A marginal project, minimal returns, and service provider challenge.

6.1 Over the last few months, Ms. Blakeman and the Committee have considered the source select approach to acquiring the forest products removal contractor for this project. Early on, the group focused on S. W. Mulliner as a local contractor who possessed the "best-fit" attributes to perform the logging and deliver a completed project to the Town while meeting the constraining conditions inherent within this project.

Tom Taylor suggested that Anita begin discussing this project with S. W. Mulliner as well as putting together the operable contract terms for this logging effort. Anita

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indicated that she would proceed as directed but alerted the group to some potential issues and questions that will impact the formation of a timber harvest/sales agreement. These are:

1) Its the current understanding of the consultant that the timber tax paid to the Town is channeled into the General Fund and not the Forestry Committee Reserve Fund, to be used for future forestry project of benefit to the Town. Tom Taylor and Al Krygeris confirmed this assertion.

2) S. W. Mulliner, a logging business contractor, does not maintain a company wide, full coverage workmen's compensation (insurance) plan/policy. *The group recognized that this would require careful project management oversight of labor resource assessments.* Only pre-approved and insured logging staff, identified in the contract, would be allowed to be associated with this project. The Forestry Committee also observed that lack of Workmen's Compensation Insurance would create a tenuous business practice and concluded that seeking municipality-related legal advice would be a prudent action.

3) Ms. Blakeman was asked, notwithstanding the legal issues, to proceed with drafting an agreement between the logger and the Town, known as the "Timber Sales Agreement". Tom Taylor asked that all committee members review this document when made available.

4) The consultant reported that S. W. Mulliner preferred to work as an "honorable agent" of the wood lot owner. This business arrangement, with complete operational costs disclosure, allows revenue and expenses to be allocated to the logger/owner cooperative in accordance with a pre-agreed upon equation. The logging contractor is tasked with maintaining precise accounting records.

The Forestry Committee concluded that this approach could work with a private landowner but did not meet the acceptable business practices discipline required for municipality contracts. Accordingly, Anita was asked to pursue an arrangement which includes a firm price expected for the Town's forestry products.

7.0 Farnsworth Forest Boundary Identification:

- 7.1 Anita asked the Forestry Committee with help in locating the short segment of the property line at the Ashuelot community end of the Old Marlow Road. She indicated that, during a recent field visit to the site, she was unable to find the tree blaze designating the boundary. Tom Taylor suggested that the Forestry Committee members find a convenient day and time in the near future to assemble at the site and help locate the boundary.

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8.0 Closure:

- 8.1 There being no further business before the Washington Forestry Committee Pete Martin moved to adjourn. Tom Burt seconded this motion. All present voted in favor of the motion.

Attachments:

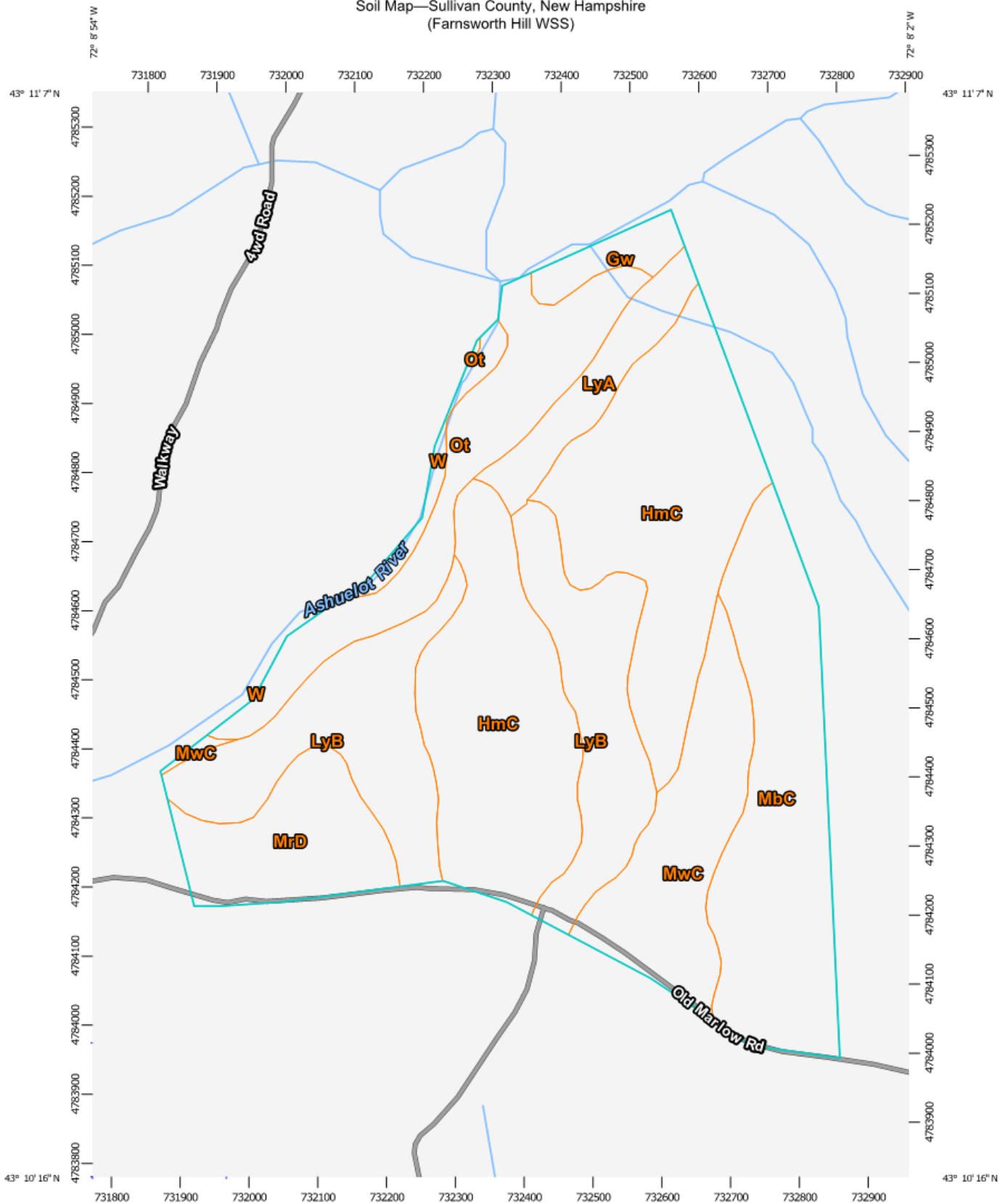
Attachment A: Anita Blakeman submission of a site map showing the national Resource Conservation Services designation of the soil types in the Farnsworth Hill Forest.

Attachment B: Anita Blakeman submission of a site map showing the terrain characteristics and tree species in the Farnsworth Hill Forest.

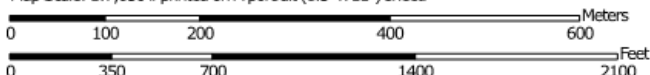
Submitted by:

Steve Hanssen

Soil Map—Sullivan County, New Hampshire
(Farnsworth Hill WSS)



Map Scale: 1:7,650 if printed on A portrait (8.5" x 11") sheet.



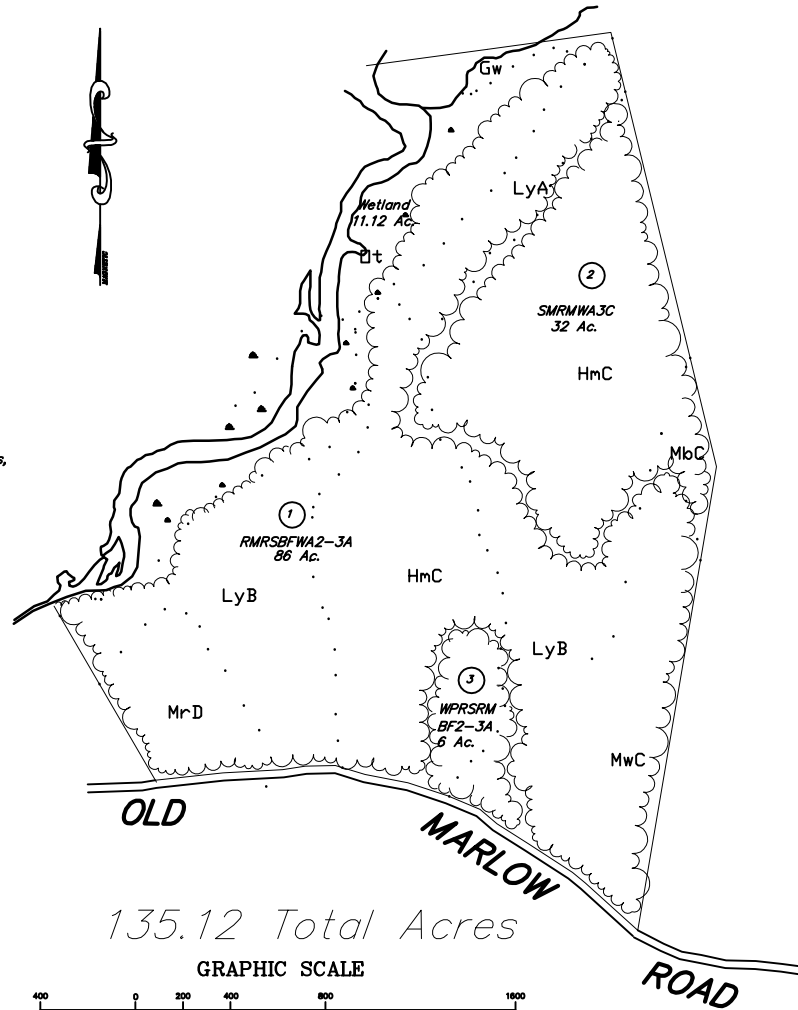
Map projection: Web Mercator Corner coordinates: WGS84 Edge ticks: UTM Zone 18N WGS84

Legend

- trail
- o-o-o-o stone wall
- ③ Forest Stand Designation
- ~ Forest Type Boundary
- MvC Soil Type Symbol
- Soil Type boundary

Soil Type Classification

- Gw - Greenwood mucky peat
- HmC- Hermon stony fine sandy loam, 8-15% slopes
- LyA - Lyme-Moosilauke stony loams, 0-3% slopes
- LyB - Lyme-Moosilauke stony loams, 3-8% slopes
- MbC - Marlow stony loam, 8-15% slopes
- MrD - Monadnock-Hermon association, 15-25% slopes, very stony, moderately steep
- MwC - Monadnock-Lyman Rock Outcrop Complex
- Ot - Ossipee mucky peat



135.12 Total Acres

GRAPHIC SCALE



(IN FEET)
1 inch = 400 ft.

Prepared By:
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Forest Stand Designations

Species Code:

- WP---white pine
- SM---sugar maple
- HM---hemlock
- BF---balsam fir
- RS---red spruce
- RM----red maple
- WB----white birch
- YB----yellow birch
- WA----white ash

Diameter Class:

- 1-----0" to 4" D.b.h. (Sapling)
- 2-----5" to 11" D.b.h. (Poletimber)
- 3----12" to 17" D.b.h. (Small Sawtimber)
- 4---18" D.b.h. and up (Large Sawtimber)

Stand Density:

- A----Above Average
- B----Average
- C----Below Average

FOREST TYPE MAP
Prepared For
WASHINGTON FORESTRY COMMITTEE
FARNSWORTH HILL LOT

Located In
Washington, NH

APRIL 2015
REV . May 2016