

Tunbridge Town Forest Committee – May 15, 2019, Town Office – approved minutes

Fred Pond, David Kimball, Brenda Field, Gary Mullen, Lee Lawrence, Dan ‘rudi’ Ruddell, guest David Paganelli

Meeting to order at 7:00 pm

Brenda suggests requesting help from a law student to research water rights at town forest; suggested contact as starting point is Maureen Moriarty

County Forester David Paganelli gave updates on contract for further Town Forest management. Jim Welch has expressed willingness, contract has been prepared and was reviewed. Timing may work out well as markets are back up slightly.

Goals: Town Garage Lot harvest summer 2019; Jim W. has expressed interest in then harvesting Drew Lot over next 2-3 years (targeted winter harvests due to sensitivity of Drew Lot), committee in concurrence with David P’s suggestion that this seems like a feasible strategy. Primary hesitation voiced: staying ahead of any potential Emerald Ash Borer infestations. With this in mind, David P recommends (and committee concurs) revising 2011 management objectives for ash from 18-20 in. diameter to 16-18 in. diameter.

Preliminary harvest estimates based on inventory/markings: 6-10 mbf on Town Garage Lot, 40-60 mbf on Drew Lot. Discussion of trying to move the access road to Town Garage Lot (a desired long-term objective for increasing accessibility to school and other users) before harvest; Gary to discuss with Town road crew, but this will be dependent of their time constraints and this is a very busy time of year.

Also discussion of committee members developing plans and cut list (to utilize wood from the harvest, likely hemlock) for a pavilion on the Town Garage Lot. This will need to be developed soon.

Next steps for harvest commencement:

- 1) Signed contract
- 2) Proof of insurance
- 3) Security deposit

Flagging on water springs and lines should be revisited, verified and refreshed previous to harvest; Brenda will contact Simon and Jerilyn. Simon has been interested in replacing the lead pipe to his supply with non-lead pipe. After next Town Forest Committee meeting in June 2019 we will walk and re-set or remove pertinent flagging.

Next meeting scheduled for June 19, 2019.

Gary motioned to adjourn, Lee seconded, all approved; meeting adjourned 7:55 pm.

Minutes taken by Gary Mullen and d. ruddell, submitted by latter.