

Craftsbury Municipal Forest Committee Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2015

Members in attendance: Ann Ingerson, Rob Libby, Jim Moffatt, Robert Linck, Stuart LaPoint, Chris Sanville, Jim Jones and Barbara Alexander

Jim M. opened discussion by saying the purpose of the meeting was to get the committee's input on his draft town forest management plans for the Baker Lot, the Webster Lot and the Blueberry Lot, all located on Hatch Brook Road. For information on the Coburn Hill Lot, he noted three sources for reference that could be used by the committee in creating a more comprehensive management plan. These include a forest inventory prepared by forester, Ross Morgan in 2005; a forest management plan written by the municipal forest committee in 2000; and a general forest assessment provided by the Sterling Forestry Techniques class in 2004.

Jim also noted that the new county forester, Jared Nunnery, was willing to assist us in the preparation of a more current management plan for Coburn Hill.

Barbara read the minutes from our last (sit-down) meeting and the minutes were accepted as read.

The committee elected officers for 2015 and the results were as follows: Jim Moffatt, chair; Rob Libby, vice chair; and Barbara Alexander, secretary.

Rob wasn't clear on the difference between the school and the town forest and asked the members if he should talk to Walt Gutzmann about the committee overseeing the school forest as well as the town forest. Jim said there was a clear distinction between the school and the town forests and suggested Rob should also talk to the school directors about it. The committee agreed that was a good idea.

Jim Jones was asked if the select board would be expecting professional management plans for the town forest. He thought plans written by the committee with the help of Jared Nunnery would be sufficient.

Stuart LaPoint felt the draft plans prepared by Jim M. were fine and suggested we present them to the select board as is. The summary opinion of the committee was the draft plans for the Webster, Baker and Blueberry Lots could be presented to the select board and we would develop a more comprehensive plan for the Coburn Hill Lot.

Ann suggested we post the new management plans on the web.

A short discussion regarding possible timber harvesting followed and Jim M. felt no more than 20 acres of trees on several sites would be available for logging within a twenty year time frame.

A date was set for our annual tour of the Common trees for May 12th at 6 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Alexander