

Forest Management Addendum

Wolven Park

Jericho Road, Pelham, NH



Prepared by

Full Circle Forestry, LLC

For

Pelham Forestry Committee

October 2020

Amended

August 2022

Introduction

The purpose of this Forest Management Addendum is to address recommendations made from the *Ecological Assessment and Land Use Plan for Wolven Park* prepared by Susanne Smith Meyer & Christopher Kane for the Pelham Forestry Committee in December 2015. Additionally, these recommendations align with Ms. Wolven's restrictions, limitations, and easements set forth in Deed Book 66730/ Page 2800 (copy attached) as agreed to during the properties transition of ownership to the Town of Pelham. The deed language requests the property be "managed, used, and maintained as a wildlife refuge or park."

The Forest Management Addendum will specifically address boundary line maintenance, invasive plant species management, old field area management, and general forest management considerations. Given the language set forth in the deed, a traditional Forest Management Plan was not deemed necessary as the previously mentioned ecological assessment covers key elements found within a traditional Forest Management Plan. The Pelham Forestry Committee wishes to include this addendum in their continued effort to be good stewards of the land and fulfill the wishes of Ms. Wolven.

Forest Management Recommendations

Boundary Line Maintenance

Boundary line maintenance is a key component of managing forestland. Boundary line blazing and painting is critical in boundary maintenance as it helps landowners understand the extent of their ownership so they can plan accurately and effectively on their own property. Boundary line maintenance can also help prevent honest mistakes from happening on abutting properties. In 2016, blazing and painting was conducted on the property where stone walls were not present based on the recommendations found in the ecological assessment. Building on these recommendations, blazing and painting should be done on all boundary lines despite the presence of stone walls, since some properties have multiple stone walls within them. See Woodlot Boundary Maintenance from UNH Cooperative Extension for additional information. <https://extension.unh.edu/resource/woodlot-boundary-line-marking>. At a minimum boundary lines can be painted. It is recommended that the boundary lines be reassessed in 2025 and re-blazed and re-painted as necessary.

Invasive Plant Species Management

During the writing of the ecological assessment in 2015 and subsequent site visits by natural resource professionals, multiple invasive plant species were observed in varying densities. Invasive plant species can be detrimental to natural plant communities as they often out compete native vegetation. This can ultimately lead to a shift in the vegetation found within the native plant community. Rare plant species have been identified on this property and are in danger of being outcompeted by invasive plant species. Invasive plant species found on this property include but are not limited to glossy buckthorn, common buckthorn, burning bush, autumn olive, multiflora rose, and black swallowwort. All of these species are common to southern NH.

Invasive plant species are generally found throughout the eastern portion of the property in the wooded areas as well as the old field area. The forested wetland in the central area of the property currently contains the highest population of invasive plant species, primarily glossy buckthorn. Lighter populations of glossy buckthorn can also be found in the western portion of the property. Future treatments should include these areas as well.

Treatments of invasive plant species should always be done by a licensed pesticide applicator. Best management practices should be followed to minimize the use of herbicides within the environment and

avoid biologically sensitive areas when possible. An initial treatment of invasive plant species was conducted by licensed pesticide applicators on the eastern portion of the property in 2016 as an attempt to control a well-established population. Treatment included a low volume foliar application of herbicides as a control measure. In 2020 a second treatment was made in the same area as a follow up treatment based on the recommendation of natural resource professionals in 2019. It is recommended the property be monitored for invasive plant species every year. Follow up treatments and new treatment areas should be determined based on the control of previous treatments and the spread of invasive plant species within the property. Periodic treatments are recommended to control populations before the densities become to great.

Old Field Area Management

The old field area is found in the central portion of the property. This area is just over 1 acre in size and was once part of larger open agricultural land. Efforts were taken in 2016 to restore a portion of this area back to open field. Through tree cutting and annual mowing, this area has been maintained as an open field since 2016. Management of this area generally consists of annual mowing during the fall. This has allowed the field to be maintained in an open grassy state. It is recommended the old field area be mowed annually in an effort to maintain it in its current state. Mowing should be conducted in the mid- to late fall season. Opportunities for enhancing pollinator habitat can be explored through plantings and wildflower seeding. See Fields, Old Fields, and Shrublands from UNH Cooperative Extension for additional information. https://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource001937_Rep2855.pdf. Specific goals and objectives can be identified for this old field area and management can be tailored to achieve those goals.

General Forest Management Considerations

As previously mentioned, this property is to be “managed, used, and maintained as a wildlife refuge or park”. Although traditional timber harvesting based management is not planned on this property, there are still general forest management considerations for any managed forestland. The following considerations should be noted as well:

Wildlife Habitat – Although some activities can manage for a specific plant or animal (species specialists), most forest management activity focuses on habitat generalists by managing for a diversity of species, protecting existing critical habitat, and enhancing existing habitat. Timber harvesting activity is generally not planned for this property. Enhancement to the forestland will be minimal over the life of this addendum. Wildlife species and populations can be monitored throughout the life of the plan to observe their interaction with the property over time.

Soils – This property contains an extensive network of hiking trails that experiences moderate to high volumes of traffic on a daily basis. Trail layout and construction should take into consideration ground impact, specifically in sensitive areas with poorly drained soils. These areas should be avoided when possible and best management practices should be followed when constructing structures to cross these areas.

Recreational Resources – As properties become more accessible with hiking trails they can become more accessible to ATV's and snowmobiles. Periodic monitoring of the property should be done to minimize the exposure to unwanted and often destructive recreational uses. Trail access points can be shored up with boulder blockades or gates. Recreational opportunities can be continually explored to meet the needs of the public.

Aesthetic Values – To maintain good aesthetics within the property, leaning or fallen trees impacting hiking trails can be cut and left to lay flat where they fall.

Cultural Features – Care should be taken to avoid disturbing stone walls, stone piles, or any other cultural feature that is discovered throughout the property when constructing hiking trails or viewing areas.

Forest Protection – Periodic monitoring of the property can help prevent damage to the property. Littering, illegal camping/ campfires, and illegal discharging of firearms are common occurrences within the forested landscape. These activities can lead to permanent damage of the property itself.

Insects and Diseases- Forest pest can be detrimental to forestland whether they are insects or diseases. Sudden outbreaks or infestations can often impact harvesting decisions for landowners and land managers. It is important to note some of the major insects and diseases common to the area.

Insects- Emerald Ash Borer, Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, Elongated Hemlock Scale, White Pine Weevil, Gypsy Moth, Forest Tent Caterpillar, Sugar Maple Borer etc.

Diseases- Armillaria, Ash Yellow, Beech Bark Disease, Caliciopsis, White Pine BlisterRust, etc.

Periodic monitoring for outbreaks or infestations is highly recommended. If an outbreak or infestation is to occur, remedial steps should be taken to slow the spread.

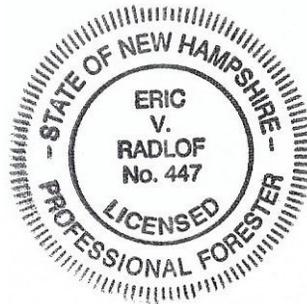
In Conclusion

The recommendations proposed in this Forest Management Addendum should be implemented within the next 5 years, although timing will depend on landowner priorities and environmental conditions such as pest outbreaks and weather events. In 2025 this property can be reassessed as the ecological assessment will be 10 years old and due for an update. A reassessment at that time can review the impacts of recreation, tree health, and wildlife habitat.

Respectfully Prepared,



Eric V. Radlof
Consulting Forester, NH LPF# 447
Full Circle Forestry, LLC



2071652

2002 JUL 19 AM 10:27

22.37 123 soule

2

40.60

NOTS

WARRANTY DEED

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS that Diane M. Wolven, unmarried, of 31 Jericho Road, Pelham, Hillsborough County, New Hampshire, for consideration paid, grants to the Town of Pelham, acting through its Conservation Commission, a municipal corporation, with a mailing address of 6 Main Street, Pelham, Hillsborough County, New Hampshire, with WARRANTY COVENANTS:

A certain tract or parcel of land located on Jericho Road, Pelham, Hillsborough County, New Hampshire, bounded and described as follows:

Lot 10-264, as shown on a Plan of Land entitled "Subdivision Plan of Diane M. Wolven for Pelham Conservation Commission, Jericho Road, Pelham, New Hampshire", which said plan is dated December 26, 2001, and was recorded in the Hillsborough County Registry of Deeds, as Plan No. 31880 Said parcel is subject to notes and other matters shown on said Plan, to which reference may be had for a more particular description of the premises.

Said premises are subject to a gas line right of way shown on said Plan, and as described in various deeds, including those recorded in said Registry, Book 1311, Page 254, and Book 2815, Page 319.

This conveyance shall be subject to the following restrictions:

- a. The premises conveyed shall be managed, used and maintained by the Conservation Commission, or by the Town of Pelham (should the Conservation Commission cease to exist in the Town), as a wildlife refuge or park.
- b. The name of the wildlife refuge or park shall be "Wolven Park".
- c. The Conservation Commission and/or the Town of Pelham may (in its sole discretion) create and maintain an unpaved parking area on the premises described above, along Jericho Road. The parking area may be used only by persons using the wildlife refuge or park; and shall be of a size consistent with those uses, as may determined by the Conservation Commission and/or the Town of Pelham.
- d. No building or other permanent structure shall be constructed or maintained on the premises.

Said premises are conveyed together with a walking path easement across other land of Grantor designated as Lot 10-264-1 on said Plan, 10 feet in width, running along the existing gas line right of way,

mw

BK6670PG2800

from the gate along Jericho Road to the above-described premises, as shown on said Plan.

Said premises are also conveyed together with an easement on said other land of Grantor for parking no more than 2 automobiles along Jericho Road, in the area designated "proposed parking pull-off" as shown on said Plan.

Said premises are also conveyed subject to a Conservation Easement hereby granted with respect to the Property is as follows:

1. USE LIMITATIONS

A. The Property shall be maintained in perpetuity as open space without there being conducted thereon any industrial or commercial activities.

B. The Property shall not be subdivided or otherwise divided into parcels of separate distinct ownership and may be sold, transferred, devised or conveyed only in its entirety.

C. No dwelling, tennis court, swimming pool, dock, aircraft landing strip, tower, mobile home or other structures or improvements of any kind shall be constructed, placed or introduced onto the Property.

D. No removal, filling, or other disturbances of the soil surface, nor any changes in topography, surface, or sub-surface water systems, wetlands, or natural habitat shall not be allowed.

E. No outdoor advertising structures such as signs and billboards shall be displayed on the Property.

F. There shall be no mining, quarrying, excavation or extraction of rocks, minerals, gravel, sand, topsoil or other similar materials on the Property.

G. There shall be no dumping, injection, or burial of materials then known to be environmentally hazardous, including vehicle bodies or parts.

2. AFFIRMATIVE RIGHTS OF GRANTEE

A. The Grantee shall have the right to post signs on the Property identifying it as land protected under conservation restrictions.

3. TAXES

A. Grantee shall be under no obligation to pay any taxes or assessment on the property.

4. BENEFITS AND BURDENS

A. The burden of the restrictions conveyed hereby shall run with the Property and shall be enforceable against all future owners and tenants in perpetuity; the benefits of said restrictions shall not be appurtenant to any particular parcel of land but shall be in gross and assignable or transferable to any public agency having and performing governmental functions, or to any qualified organization within the meaning of Section 170 (h) (3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code

DMW

BK 6670 PG 2801

of 1954 as presently amended, and as the same may hereafter be amended or changed from time to time, which organization has wrong its purposes the conservation or preservation of land and water areas and agrees to or its capable of enforcing the conservation restrictions herein.

5. ADDITIONAL INTERESTS

A. Should the Grantor decide that the expressed purposes of this Easement Deed could better be effectuated by the conveyance of additional interests in the Property to the Grantee such conveyance may be made provided the Grantee will accept delivery thereof.

6. ABRITRATION OF DISPUTES

A. Any dispute arising under this Deed shall be submitted to arbitration in accordance with RSA 542.

B. The Grantor and the Grantee shall each choose an arbitrator and the arbitrators so chosen shall choose a third arbitrator.

C. A decision with respect to any such dispute by two of the three arbitrators shall be binding upon the parties and shall be enforceable as part of this Easement Deed.

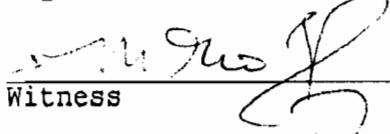
The Grantee by accepting and recording this Deed for itself, its successors and assigns, agrees to be bound by and to observe and enforce the provisions hereof and assumes the rights and responsibilities herein provided for an incumbent upon the Grantee, all in the furtherance of the conservation purposes for which this Deed is delivered.

These restrictions shall run with the land, shall be binding upon Grantee, its successors and assigns. These restrictions may be enforced by Grantor, her successors, heirs and assigns.

I, Diane M. Wolven, reserve to myself a life estate in the premises described above.

Being a portion of the premises conveyed to Diane M. Wolven by deed recorded in said Registry, Book 5702, Page 693.

Signed under seal on July 18, 2002.

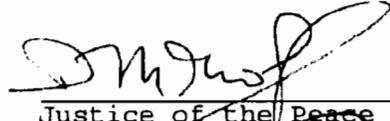

Witness


Diane M. Wolven

State of New Hampshire
County of Rockingham, ss.

July 18, 2002

Before me, personally appeared Diane M. Wolven, and acknowledged that she executed the foregoing instrument as her free act and deed for the purposes expressed therein.


Justice of the Peace
David M. Groff
My commission expires: 8/9/05

BK6670PG2802

Accepted and acknowledged by the Town of Pelham.

TOWN OF PELHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

[Signature]
Witness

By: [Signature] Selectman
William McDevitt, Selectman

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
COUNTY OF ROCKINGHAM, ss.

July 18, 2002

Personally appeared William McDevitt, Selectman, and who acknowledged that she accepted this Deed in her official capacity, duly authorized therein, for the purpose herein contained. Before me,

[Signature]
Name: Peter H. Bronstein
Justice of the Peace/~~Notary Public~~
My Commission Expires: 5/29/07

BK6670PG2803