



TOWN OF PELHAM

6 Village Green
Pelham, NH 03076

PELHAM FORESTRY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES – **NOT APPROVED**

MONDAY
12/18/23
7:04PM-8:52pm

PUBLIC MEETING HELD AT:
14 Village Green, Pelham, NH 03076
Pelham Police Station Community Room

Attendance

Committee Members

Mike Gendreau
Raymond Brunelle
Paul Gagnon
Linda Irish-Simpson
Bob Lamoureux

Start of Meeting – 7:04PM Pledge of Allegiance

October 2023 Meeting Minutes:

Minutes approved for FC meeting on 11/18/23. Paul G motion, Ray B second.
(Vote: Yes - 4 & No -0). Bob L was late for the meeting.

Open Forum:

James Fisher – James asked if it would be Ok for him to start making some more traditional trail signs and start installing them in the area behind his house (Gumpus Class A trail etc.). This would be no cost to the town for materials or labor. We would be happy to see some samples and allow him to start on this.

NEW BUSINESS:

Timber Harvest & Management Plans – Paul G reviewed a spreadsheet he developed which breaks down the town forests, acreage, year voted town forest, previous management plan, previous harvest year, previous revenue, next management plan year, , next harvest year and expected revenue. In 2023 we netted estimated \$20,000 between Spaulding Hill and Merriam. Special thanks from all to Paul. In 2024 anticipated timber harvests are Calitri, Gumpus Pond & PVMP. Forest management plans include Lareaux, Cutter Woods & Charles Black parcel. In the next FC meeting we should review the 2023 financials and see where we are for 2024. One question about current lumber value. Paul G said firewood prices are up along with Oak.



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Fall Forest Work Updates:

- (1) End of Natures Way - Still waiting for engineer to give us monumentation for lot lines.
- (2) Raymond Park – Posts still need to be installed that James Fisher made and Linda Painted. Heather C said she will take care of it.
- (3) Woven – Paul G was able to repair trail with \$40.00 worth of material. Motion by Bob L to reimburse Paul G \$40.00. Ray B second. (Vote Yes 5 & No -0)
- 4) Cutter/Spaulding – Tackle in the Spring
- (5) Spring Street/Moose Pond –Bob L spoke about this area. He said this area is suffering bad from overgrowth from the rainy summer and lack of people using the trails. Bob L also mentioned that November and December (until snow falls) are the time of year all trail work done preparing for winter activities. He has volunteers doing work all over town opening the trails. Mike G to speak with Police department letting them know the trails will be very active with people, equipment of all sorts.
- (6) Kiosk Maps – Ray B and Mike G to remove old and replace with new maps.
- (7) Costa – Ray B was able to take his tractor over to the wood chips and move them and disperse in areas agreed on by the FC
- (8) Gumpus – Tim Kennedy was able to finish work he had started.
- (9) Merriam Farm – The entrance way needs some material due to being washed out and used. Paul G and Heather C will spread out material provided from Heather. They said they should be able to get volunteers and crown the area to avoid water from settling and washing out.

Review Bridge Estimates: Ray B followed up by handing out a multiple page packet detailing his findings on bridge work. An email was provided between FC Chairman & NHDES rep stating if there are impacts on the banks then a permit may be needed, otherwise, no. Ray B provided some pictures of several bridges in primary corridors, and all shown bank to bank.

Bob L also stated that in years past he and other members got trained by the NH Trails Bureau per directions from NHDES on bridge building. He also stopped in NH Trails Bureau in Concord NH who also told him if the bridges are clear spanned from bank to bank it is fine. Bob L also said that he was told that any stream that flows 24/7-365 days per year would definitely need a permit. Anything seasonal does not as long spanned bank to bank. Paul G was unsure about one (1) bridge if it is bank to bank which does need repairs. Paul G asked about asking a wetlands scientist (Luke Hurley) to look at the one bridge in question before we vote on it. FC agreed to have Paul G to meet with Luke Hurley (no cost) and get back to us. Paul G said if we needed a simple permit, he would be willing to apply to NHDES for us. We reviewed the estimate for the bridge at Moose Pond (back side of pond). The FC would like the bridge to have bumpers (not railings). Motion by Paul G to authorize M&D Power and Services \$2,640.00 to repair/replace bridge with bumpers and not railings. Linda second. (Vote Yes 5 & No -0). Heather to write an indemnity language and to run by legal & get back to us.

We also reviewed estimate on a bridge by Spring Street heading towards Little Island Pond (LIP). Motion by Bob L to authorize M&D Power and Services \$3,600.00 to repair/replace bridge with no railings. Paul G second. (Vote Yes 5 & No -0).



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Stone Walls and Obstacles: Nick Spanos noticed while hunting in Peabody area that there are multiple stones and rock walls missing stones. He was wondering if rocks were removed from the rock walls for work done. Tim K said they were not that in fact he added more rocks to the stone walls. He said he said a few people walking dogs off leash and dog feces in trails. He feels people should have their dogs on leash and pick up after them. FC stated there are signs throughout the town mentioning that.

Spaulding Hill Permit Update: Paul G is working with Luke Hurley (wetlands scientist) who is trying to put together a meeting with NHDES Mr. Hurley disagrees with the amount of impact and when he can meet with NHDES will explain his findings. Right now, in a holding pattern and will follow up in a future meeting.

Walk-In Items:

Linda – She asked about the Pitch Pine Trees in Woven Park, and we are told by Eric (town forester) that he doesn't think they will survive and didn't advise getting involved with anything further. She also asked about our thoughts on connecting Musquash & Gumpus. There is nothing in the plans at this time. Linda also walked Tower Hill area and said the lock was missing at the gate at the entrance to the Class A trail. She was to reach out to the police. Heather was also going to speak with BOS and get back to us.

Bob L – Bob L explained that over the previous weekend that he met with the Police due to a problem with a wheeled vehicle destroying a retention pond. It is believed to be someone local to that area. He will follow up. Mike G to speak with Jen (planning) and Al about making sure there is a 10-foot lip for the trail along the road in the new development off Currier Road.

Mike G – Mike G restated that no discussions can be done via email. He also mentioned that day he received an email about tree planting with Merrimack River Watershed Council about a tree planting project along waterways to help stabilize the banking and better water quality. Mike G asked if there were any areas we manage that could benefit from something like this. Ray B said in Merriam Farms it should be looked at along Beaver Brook. Mike G is meeting with several people in the coming weeks to discuss further and will follow up.

Adjourn: 8:52PM

Motion to adjourn meeting Bob L, second Paul G (Vote Yes 5 & No -0)