



TOWN OF PELHAM

6 Village Green
Pelham, NH 03076

FORESTRY COMMITTEE MINUTES

November 23, 2020 - 7:00 P.M. – 8:08 P.M.

Review of Draft Forest Management Plan for Merriam Farm Town Forest - Review of each section of draft management plan; Introduction – Multicruise program was used to analyze data, discussion of issues with blazing boundaries and alternatives, landing and access for management should be located at the end of Moonshadow; Stand Development – Severe deer browse reported on property, invasive plants need to be managed, insects and diseases are discussed with the need to monitor for outbreaks, changing climate is discussed as a forest disturbance; Multiple Use Values – forest management will focus on creating a diversity of species and size classes, creation of early successional habitat and field will enhance wildlife features; Forest Soils – Inventory produced 8 distinct stands with 5 commercial, productive forest stands; Adaptive Forest Management & Ecological Forestry – Discussion of recommendations to produce a healthy, ecological forest; Forest Stand Summaries – Discussion of each stand and their characteristics.

7:15 P.M. Appointment Val Boyer - Discussion of Merriam Farm Town Forest proposed parking area - Review of location of proposed parking area on Mammoth Road; Mr. Boyer expressed concerns about traffic issues related to the location which would be near the junction of Sherburne Road and Mammoth Road; traffic is very heavy and increasing; pulling out onto Mammoth Road and potential increased traffic with people visiting may be a problem; his recommendation is to install the parking area on Moonshadow Drive and then assess the area after the roundabout is installed. - Paul Gagnon stated that some of the property lines have been researched and agree with Mr. Boyer's lines; the proposed sign and parking lot will be modest with parking for a few cars; we need a curb cut from the state of NH and the project will go before the Pelham Highway Safety Committee; we have a good track record with our parking lots being safe. - Deborah Waters stated the Wolven Conservation Area parking lot is a good example of the type of parking lot we put in; very few issues have been reported there.



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7:30 P.M. Appointment Rodney Thompson – Redline Hiking Program for Pelham Trails – Rodney explained the popularity of list hiking in the White Mountains such as AMC 4000 Footers, 52 with a View, the Terrifying 25, etc. Lists encourage more trail usage. A patch is awarded at completion. Recommends a patch for people who hike all of Pelham’s trails; suggests we use volunteers to organize and oversee program.

Review of Wolven Park Conservation Area – Forest Management Plan - No substantive changes needed; nearly ready for finalization and posting to the town’s website.

Proposal For New Trail – Discussion of procedure to evaluate new trail locations including site walk and Trail Adopter assigned before opening.

Trail Adopter Reports – Reports include Gumpus Pond Conservation Area, Spring Street/Moose Pond/Calitri and Wolven Park Conservation Area.

Review of Correspondence – Fire Chief Midgley sent information about Governor’s proclamation banning camp fires and smoking on NH forest lands; Wetland Scientist sent information regarding trail permit in prime wetland buffer for Merriam Farm Town Forest; communications with Pelham High School regarding student volunteers.

Budget Review - 2020 work schedule is winding down; approximately \$5,600 remaining in emergency reserve account.

Annual Report – Discussion of items to include in this year’s report.

Thanksgiving Hike Recommendations – Members proposed trails suitable for a Thanksgiving walk; will post on Facebook our trail “picks”.

Members Present via Zoom: Paul Gagnon, Charlie Gale, Gayle Plouffe, Deborah Waters / Bob Lamoureux watching via PTV / Adjourn: 8:08 p.m.

Submitted by Deborah Waters, Chairman