

NEW BOSTON FORESTRY COMMITTEE
New Boston, NH 03070
February 10, 2016

Board of Selectmen
New Boston, NH 03070

RECEIVED
FEB 11 2016

Re: request for information, Siemeze Harvest 2014

Dear Selectmen,

Per your request via Peter Flynn, please see the attached documents:

1. 2014 Siemeze Lot Logging: comparison of bid values to donation formula. We attempted to present this comparison to you on December 7, but were not allowed to be completely heard. If you have any questions about this document, we would be happy to come to your scheduled public meeting in the evening or you could come to ours. Most of our members work and cannot come during the day. We do want to answer your questions and discuss putting out future harvest contracts to bid, as you requested.
2. History of Forestry Committee donation process, 2000-2015. Presented to selectmen at their meeting on December 7, 2014.
3. Recommendation of Forester Dennis McKenney for Siemeze Harvest, 7/16/2014.
4. Letter to selectmen from Trimbur Forests, 11/2/2015.
5. Report of Forester Jon Nute, dated November 9, 2015 addressed to Selectman Joe Constance at his home address, obtained by the Forestry Committee from Mr. Nute, as it was not made available to us by the selectmen.

With reference to the letter from Mr. Nute:

1. The letter states that Mr. Nute was told the Siemeze harvest was finished as of November 9, 2015. That is not true. Trimbur Forests wrote a letter (see attachment #4) stating he was suspending operations at Siemeze to work on another site in town and would be back to finish. The current intent to cut runs from April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016 and the contract is still in effect.
2. Mr. Nute was led to believe there was no forester on the job. That is not true. Mr. Dennis McKenney is our forester (see attachment #3). Mr. McKenney will continue to inspect the harvest according to our agreements and write a final report.
3. Mr. Nute was concerned about bumper trees along the skid trails and logs left at the landing site. The logging is not finished. The intention of the Forestry Committee is to create a parking area and trailhead at the landing site. The Siemeze Lot is a beautiful area and we intend to create trails using the skid areas

up to the class six road on the hill and across to the Colby Lot. This improvement was a recommendation from Mr. Nute in his 1996 Forest Management Plan for the Siemeze Forest. We have purchased signage with some of the revenue we have generated, similar to the conservation areas in town, that will be familiar to the townspeople.

With reference to your concerns about the cost and condition of the landing area built in 2015: the Forestry Committee feels very fortunate that we got this job done—a very rough and difficult area—at a very reasonable cost from Skip Gomes. Some of his work was donated, as he is very generous for this and other town projects. When the harvest is done, the landing will be free of logs and debris. We are not going to seed it over, however, as it will be used as a parking area for trails in the near future and most of all, a permanent landing area for future harvests in the Siemeze and Colby Forests.

One final note: none of us on the Forestry Committee appreciate the underhanded way you have gone about this whole issue. Mr. Nute was given incorrect information and surely is owed an apology, to say nothing of your unprofessional treatment of Tim Trimbur and the rest of the Forestry Committee.

New Boston Forestry Committee

Cc: Jon Nute, UNH Cooperative Extension

Dennis McKenney, Forester, NE Forestry Consultants

Town Counsel

Forestry Committee, December 7, 2015

2014 SIEMEZE LOT LOGGING

The following is a comparison of the revenue the committee would expect to receive if the harvest was put out for a typical bid as compared to the revenue actually received from Trimbur Forests for the 2014 Siemeze logging using the donation formula in the contract.

AT BID VALUE

TOTAL HARVEST BY TYPE AND BID PRICE

TOWN WOULD RECEIVE

(Trucking costs are part of the bid prices)

Pine logs: 40,155 mbf @ \$100		\$4,015.50
Pulp: 62 tons @ \$3.00		186.00
Biomass (chips): 516 tons @ \$1.00		516.00
Cordwood: 80 cords @ \$10.00		800.00
	Sub Total	5,517.50
Landing costs (gave landowner (Bowen) 30 cords of wood for use of landing on property)	Minus	300.00
Forester (mark trees, supervise cut, final report)	Minus	1,379.38
	Total	\$3,838.12

AT DONATION FORMULA

(Town receives all revenue from pine logs minus trucking; logger receives pulp, biomass, log length cordwood; Forestry Committee hires Forester to mark & supervise harvest with final written report; Forestry Committee pays for landing construction or use of private property. In this case, the logger donated 30 cords of wood to Bowen for use of the property in 2014.)

Pine logs at mill (full price): 40,155 mbf @ \$300		\$12,046.50
Trucking @ \$75/mbf	Minus	3,011.62
	Sub Total	9,034.88
Forester (actual)	Minus	2,164.48
	Total	\$6,870.40

In addition, the Highway Department received a significant quantity of hemlock logs for their use.

2014 SIEMEZE LOT LOGGING (continued)

TRIMBUR FORESTS INCOME (sustains operation)

Trucking		\$ 3,011.52
Pulp (town would have received at bid value, rest is per contract)		186.00
Biomass	(" " " ")	516.00
Cordwood	(" " " ")	800.00
	TOTAL	\$4,513.62

CONCLUSION: Town benefits by getting \$300 pm at the mill minus \$75 pm trucking which equals \$225 pm for town as opposed to \$100 pm at bid value.

40,155 mbf pine logs @ \$225 equals \$9,034.88 minus Trimbur Forests income of \$4,513.62 equals donation of \$4,521.26 by Trimbur Forests. Forester and landing costs are the price of doing business.

Presentation to Selectmen December 7, 2015
OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES 2003-ongoing
New Boston Forestry Committee
Per RSA Chapter 31:110-113 and
New Boston Town Meeting 2003, Warrant Article 7

HISTORY

2000 Sherburne Lot: purchase of \$10,000 Option by Forestry Committee towards \$150,000 land purchase by the town (Art. 14, 2001)

- Committee had \$5500; borrowed \$4500 (interest free) from Mr. DeRoeth
- Tim Trimbur volunteered his time and equipment to cut pine in Lydia Dodge West equivalent to repay loan
- 2001 repaid loan
- 2002: Forestry Committee went to selectmen (see minutes 12/02/02) to propose land encircling the 17-acre sandpit area be designated a town forest so it could be managed (Art. 8, 2003). **They also discussed the issue of donations of professional services by members of the committee. The town auditor was consulted and a warrant article was proposed that 100% of timber revenue (and therefore the full value of services donated) be retained by the Forestry Committee up to a cap of \$50,000. Previously the timber revenue was shared 50-50, with half going to the Forestry Committee and half to the General Fund (Art. 7, 2003). The aspect of professional donation of the timber revenue was fully discussed at the deliberative session (see record) and has been very successful over the last 12 years (2003-2014) averaging \$2,337.61/year.**
- Trimbur Forests donated timber revenue from three small cuts in Lydia Dodge West from 2000 through 2013. In 2014 Trimbur Forests donated hemlock pole logs to the highway department from the Siemeze Lot and

timber revenue to the town in the amount of \$9,034.88. That logging is ongoing in 2015 per the contract signed July 21, 2014 by the selectmen, and has deposited \$15,811.78 to the town so far in 2015.

- Bob Todd, Tom Miller and Dave Allen have also contributed surveying, bridge design and construction, and sawing of hemlock bridge lumber. Citizen Duke Winslow also volunteered time and equipment to improve the logging road in Lydia Dodge West.
- In January of 2008, the Forest Maintenance Fund contained \$951.78. As of December 7, 2015 the fund has a balance of \$25,224.67.
- Tim Trimbur has been on the Forestry Committee since 1997.
- Use of Forest Maintenance Fund: hiring of Foresters, log landings, recreational signs, replanting of forest, updating Forest Management plans, bridge building, trail maintenance.

NEW ENGLAND FORESTRY CONSULTANTS, INC.

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Consulting Foresters and Land Surveyor
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Bennington, New Hampshire 03442-4505

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Internet: www.cforesters.com

To: Tim Trimbur
From: Dennis D. McKenney, Land Surveyor/Consulting Forester

July 16, 2014

Re: Town of New Boston timberland—Siameze Lot, Middle Branch Road

Tim, based on our recent walk through part of the Siameze Lot, I would recommend the following:

1. Harvest mature timber like the large white pine, red oak and hemlock while reserving trees of size along the public road and across the harvest area for aesthetic purposes or of obvious wildlife value and silvicultural purposes.
2. Harvest low quality and poorly formed species for pulp, firewood and chips.
3. Locate skid roads to the extent possible such that they can be used for hiking trails.
4. I understand that the timber will be processed on land owned by an abutter to the west.
5. I would anticipate marking trees to leave and those to be cut for sawlogs, while designating those to be cut for roundwood and chips. Due to the emerging threat of the Emerald Ash Borer, a pre-emptive salvage of the the ash is warranted
6. The initial harvest area will be bounded on the east by the interior north-south stonewall, south by a timber type line now flagged in pink that terminates at the 'bull oak' designated on the map you gave. From the bull oak the cut limit would likely run northerly to the abutter on whose land the wood will be processed.
7. Since it's likely you will be working alone, an inspection every other week or so will suffice.

ATTACHMENT #3

Nov. 2 2015

To the selectmen;

Just to inform you that I have to pull off the Middle Branch project to do
A small project before any snow comes. When I return to Middle Branch
to finish up the cut will for the most part be bio mass. Along the road
frontage and select pockets where I can release some nice pole wood..
Any concerns or questions contact me @ 860-2652

Regards
Tim Trimbur

ATTACHMENT #4

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

329 Mast Road, Room 101
Goffstown, NH 03045

T: 603.641.6060
F: 603.645.5252

extension.unh.edu



University of New Hampshire
Cooperative Extension

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Joe Constance, Selectman
300 Bedford road
New Boston, NH 03070

Mr. Constance

November 9, 2015

County Offices

Belknap County
603.527.5475

Carroll County
603.447.3834

Cheshire County
603.352.4550

Coös County
603.788.4961

Grafton County
603.787.6944

Hillsborough County
603.641.6060

Merrimack County
603.796.2151

Rockingham County
603.679.5616

Strafford County
603.749.4445

Sullivan County
603.863.9200

Education Center
603.351.3831 (Office)
877.398.4769 (Toll Free)

NH Cooperative
Extension State Office
603.862.1520

It was good to meet you this afternoon and walk the 85 acre Siemeze town forest. This was logged this summer by Tim Trimbur, the Chair of the town Forestry Committee. He filed the appropriate paperwork with the town and state for the Intent To Cut tax form as well as his personal timber harvest contract with the town. You said that he has completed the harvest, so he has 60 days to file the Report Of Cut tax form with the town.

The trees of the town forest are public property, so every attempt should be made to get the best price when the decision to harvest is made, combined with the best harvest job to provide for the future growth and value of the remaining trees.

Standard procedure for a town forest harvest is for the town to hire a forester to plan and manage the timber sale. Even though they charge an approximate 20% commission, our research shows that they actually make more than this back for the town because they get a better selling price and there is less waste of what is harvested. The forester marks the boundary lines, marks and inventories the trees for harvest, lays out the skid trail and landing, prepares the necessary paperwork, solicits bids from local harvesters, supervises the harvest and makes sure the town gets paid. At some point in the process, because this is town property, a tour of the proposed harvest area is held, or if not, a public hearing to solicit public input.

Here are some concerns:

- When a logger deals directly with a landowner, the common practice is to split the proceeds of the sale 50/50. Until there is a final accounting, I do not know if this is the case with this harvest.
- There are an excessive number of "bumper trees" left along the trails. These will have little future value to the town as they continue to grow in their damaged condition, and should have been the last trees to remove for sale during this harvest.
- More than \$6,000 was spent to create a 100'x100' log processing area along Middle Branch Road. There is still debris at this site and it has not been improved to be used as a public recreation access to the lot.

Enclosed find:

- my summary of NH forest harvest laws.
- stumpage price list
- list of local foresters

Jonathan W. Nute
County Extension Forester

ATTACHMENT # 5

