

MINUTES OF FORESTRY COMMITTEE FOR JANUARY 2019

Present: Tom Miller, Graham Pendlebury, Kim DiPietro, Mike Constance, Willard Dodge, Dave Kent, and Joe Constance. Also present as guest was Jeff Briggs, a new resident and retired forester from northern Vermont. Absent: Carter Brown.

Graham Pendlebury called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM

Jeff Briggs, recently moved to town from northern Vermont, introduced himself and volunteered to help the Committee at work parties and other functions.

K. DiPietro moved to accept the minutes for December 2018 with minor corrections. G. Pendlebury seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Tom Miller discussed the recent work party at the Sherburn lot and said half of the sample plots are completed. He asked to schedule the next work party which was set for January 29 at 9:00 AM. He would like to have the application for the American Tree Farm system in by May of this year.

T. Miller also reported that the Todd Lot is now a Tree Farm. He also noted that he is making a list of priorities for the Committee to discuss at the next meeting.

T.M has also received membership information from the American Tree Farm System which accepts donations. It is a non-profit organization with national status. K. DiPietro made a motion to donate \$100.00. Mike Constance seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

T. Miller reported that the red pine cut at the Transfer Station is complete. He asked that communication with the Town Hall be improved, however, especially in the area of the transfer of monies from the logger to the Forestry Committee. Money from the cut was \$1,365.75 check. T. Miller has all information pertaining to the cut including mill slips. J. Constance will set up a meeting with the Town Administrator to improve financial receiving procedure so that the Forestry Committee Chair can record and report accurately. Tom also noted that he and Willard Dodge mulched and planted wild flowers along the trail when the logging was complete. Willard will also bring his excavator to the site to remove a problem tree this spring.

T. Miller then reported on the proposed forest walk for sixth graders at New Boston Central School. Tom has consulted with the County Forester and the

County will allow us to use their program to conduct the walk with groups of about 20 per walk. This is a mutual aid program among several counties which works very well. The walk would occur after the Christmas Tree planting in the spring.

Tom reported that the Christmas tree are ordered. There will be 175 trees and bigger trees than last year. They will be shipped in April after trees are dug out of the ground at the farm in Boscawen.

New business: It is time for the Committee to submit its annual report for the Town Report. J. Constance will contact Carter Brown to let him know it is due. K. DiPietro will give him information on the recent bridge project off Middle Branch.

T. Miller asked the Committee for their thoughts on the future of the Sherburn lot. K. DiPietro expressed an interest in improving the trail through the lot so that it would make a full loop around the property. She has a map on file demonstrating what she would like to do. Access is quite difficult as well.

Willard Dodge suggested leaving it as a wildlife area as there is little marketable timber. T. Miller suggested creating a meadow in the current sand pit when the Highway Department is finished taking the remaining sand out and then leaving it as a wildlife area. After further discussion, Tom said he would work on a plan.

The next meeting was set for February 18th 5:30 PM.