

Morristown Conservation Commission
November 7, 2013
Meeting opened at 6:34 pm

Members Attendance: Ron Stancliff, Brent Teillon, Jim Pease, Steve Rae
Guests: Fran Sladyk, Caleb Suddaby

Guest Discussion – Town Forest Plan Recommendations (Draft)

Fran handed out a paper on his thinning recommendations and the 2013 cut. The 2013 cut amounted to 35,000 board feet for which the Town was paid \$3200. There are two problem areas that still need to be addressed by Doug or the Town: (1) holes near the bridge will be fixed by the Town Highway Department; (2) on either side of the stream there needs to be water berms installed permanently, currently there is one berm. We discussed logging possibilities for Area #1 which has the most valuable timber long term. We should use that area as leverage with the logger to get less profitable work done in the forest. For example use it to have wildlife improvements cut done. Area #1 could be divided into 3 sections of 50 +/- acres each, a cable logger could be used to minimize disturbance for trees along the roadside and to the winter recreational users. Brent would like to see the Forest Plan developed further with more information. Steve would like to see a time table for implementing various logging steps in the plan. The goal would be for Fran to designate a section of Area #1 and to have the MCC approve it, then go to the SB for approval while showing it as part of the overall plan. In the future then the MCC would be able to each logging phase without SB approval. The SB would still review and approve the logging contract but the MCC would steer the process. Fran agreed to provide an updated Town Forest Plan in January-February.

Past September and October Meeting minutes were not reviewed or approved.

Member Reports

Ron-involved with the Emerald Ash Borer inventory discussions in Johnson. Ron wants to enlist the boy scouts to help inventory areas in Morristown. There is a need to do this so that there is a plan in place if the infestation happens and there is a huge inventory of Ash to manage and dispose of. The scouts would form teams of 4 and use an inventory template Ron has.

Jim-showed a map of Clark Park with potential trails and parking suggestions. A discussion ensued about the need for a lease, the issue of liability to be assumed by the Town and access to the park along the truck route right of way from Bridge Street.

Steve-is looking for a replacement as the Town Green Up coordinator; Steve will stay on it for now.

Old Business

The annual town report needs the MCC section written and approved by the end of the calendar year. Ron will start a draft and circulate it via email so we can avoid a second November meeting.

The next meeting will be December 17.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectively submitted,
Jim Pease, Secretary