



R I N E S F O R E S T
A D V I S O R Y
C O M M I T T E E

Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 19, 2008
7:00 PM – East Conference Room

Present: Warren Graumann, Richard Sweetser, Robert Heyner, Henry Milburn, Robert Waterhouse, , Tom Hinman, Bruce Wildes, Jay Braunscheidel of Intergrated Forest Management, Inc. and Town Manager Bill Shane.

Excused: Sally Stockwell, Jennifer West, Jeff Porter, Steve Moriarty and Lisa Judd.

I. Review and approval of April 17, 2008 meeting minutes.

Bob Heyner made a motion to approve the April 17, 2008 meeting minutes as submitted. Henry Milburn seconded the motion.

VOTE: Unanimous Passage 7-0

II. Rines Forest Management Plan - Review & Discussion presented by Jay Braunscheidel.

The Committee members and Jay Braunscheidel of Integrated Forest Management, Inc. discussed his recommendations for the management of the Rines Forest based on the answers to the steering questions discussed at the April 2008 meeting.

Jay Braunscheidel reviewed the process of defining what species are present in the forest in order to manage the forest based on Focus Species for wildlife habitat management and biodiversity. He said that they would need to define Management Zones according to High, Medium and Low Intensity areas.

Bob Waterhouse asked if the zones would be scattered throughout the forest or would they be contiguous?

Jay Braunscheidel pointed out various areas of the forest as examples of how they might be classified. He said he would require the help of the committee members to determine what will be done in areas throughout the forest.

BW- Question

Tom Hinman spoke about slash from harvesting wood. He thought that rutting can be cleared up with town crews. He mentioned issues of cutting in around trail areas, the benefits for hunting, and keeping in mind that sensitive areas need special attention.

Bob Waterhouse asked if the zones would be labeled on a map with explanations as to what they mean.

Jay Braunscheidel thought this could be easily depicted on a map but it may need to be more narrative.

Bob Waterhouse said he would like to see Jay's opinion of what zones are throughout the forest.

Tom Hinman said that the existing trails were formed by skidders and wanted to know how they would not disturb things they don't want to, while utilizing the existing trails.

Jay Braunscheidel said they would need to arrive at a decision that is deliberate and identifies how they want to treat the areas.

Tom Hinman asked what Mr. Braunscheidel's recommendations for Focus Species were. Jay Braunscheidel said it refers to just animals and they would pick one of the species and manage the forest for that particular species while also accommodating other species that live in similar conditions.

There was discussion of diseases that affect the species and how management needs to be adapted on an ongoing basis.

Bill Shane mentioned that questions 3, 4 & 5 from last meeting, regarding harvesting, blend together. They dealt with When, How and How often and that these were not solely economic issues.

Jay Braunscheidel said the process takes time and that communication on both sides was crucial. He would need to know what the committee wants to see and said that there was work to be done before harvesting can happen.

There was continued discussion of when harvesting can be done but the Committee still has to go through several steps within the community before anything further steps are taken.

Tom Hinman felt there was nothing urgent that had to be addressed so they can take their time to market it to the community.

Jay Braunscheidel did mention that the presence of Buckthorn is rather urgent and should be addressed sooner rather than later.

Bill Shane thought that they should plan for a map of zones at the July meeting. He would also like to see pictures of various cuts to provide a visual for the Committee members and pictures of Rines forest of areas that have been identified as areas for harvesting.

Bob Waterhouse wanted to see a time table on certain types of harvesting and what methods will be used.

Bruce Wildes said he would also like to know the frequency of harvesting.

There was discussion of whether the objectives have been defined. The Committee agreed that they needed to focus on what input Jay needs from the committee so he can develop the plan. He thought he could have a plan put together by the end of the next week for committee's review.

Bob Heyner felt that they need to have the plan, then there needs to be a consensus that the plan is what they want before they can take action.

The Committee agreed that they need to get rid of buckthorn first.

Referring to the Rines Forest, Bruce Wildes asked if the town is looking to be budget neutral on an annual basis. Bill Shane said it never has been but he wants the management going forward to be budget neutral.

There was discussion regarding what needs to be done to address the Buckthorn problem and how the cooperation of the abutters is crucial to successfully controlling it. The Committee read a draft letter that will be sent to the community members affected by it and meetings will be held to educate residents on the issue.

The following is a list of deliverables to be provided by Jay Braunscheidel at the July meeting:

- Zoning
- Pictures of Forest
- Draft Harvest Schedule
- Objectives

It was mentioned that Sally Stockwell may have input on where to start relating to selecting a focus species.

Jay Braunscheidel provided an example of a Memorandum of Understanding for the Committee to review.

It was asked if a Maine Natural Areas review of site for rare, threatened and endangered species has been conducted. It had not been triggered so Jay Braunscheidel would initiate it.

Mr. Braunscheidel would also need access to GIS info. Bill Shane would arrange for this.

Mr. Braunscheidel said they should consider the broader landscape when developing the plan. An aerial survey was discussed to see access to surrounding areas.

Jay Braunscheidel and Bruce Wildes would arrange to meet and discuss neighboring pieces that are in land trust and are talking with others for possibilities.

Bill Shane said televising a meeting would help inform the community about invasive species like Buckthorn.

III. Parking

This item will be discussed at the next meeting.

IV. Other Business

- a) Next meeting – 7:00 p.m. Thursday, July 10, 2008 at the Prince Memorial Library, Prince Room

It was suggested that a notice be placed on the front door of the Town Hall indicating the meeting location.

Base line data collection from Bruce and CCLT did not happen.

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted by,

Nancy Stroud, Recording Secretary