



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, July 10, 2008
7:00 PM – Prince Room

Present: Robert Heyner, Henry Milburn, Robert Waterhouse, Bruce Wildes, Lisa Judd, Sally Stockwell, Richard Sweetser, Steve Moriarty, Tom Hinman, Jay Braunscheidel of Intergrated Forest Management, Inc. and Town Manager Bill Shane.

Excused: Jennifer West, Jeff Porter and Warren Graumann.

I. Review and approval of June 19, 2008 meeting minutes.

Richard Sweetser made a motion to approve the June 19, 2008 meeting minutes as submitted. Robert Heyner seconded the motion.

VOTE: Unanimous Passage 6-0

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

Jay Braunscheidel began review of the items requested at the June 19th meeting. Maine Natural Areas Program report results showed a deer wintering area, inland waterfowl and wading bird habitat and New England Cottontail rabbit. He addressed the management zones based on the level of intensity of treatment. There was a brief review of the types of zones for committee members who were not present at the last meeting.

Mr. Braunscheidel utilized GIS maps to outline his proposal for where the zones would be defined. There was discussion regarding wet areas located on the property. Criteria for management would be determined according to conditions of the areas at certain times of the year, i.e. winter only for wet areas. Some areas may not contain harvestable material and may be preserved areas where nothing is done.

Manager Shane posed the question of how the zones might be designated if the Town purchases additional land and was concerned that the zones included some of the existing trails.

Sally Staockwell noted that what has been proposed does not include a large contiguous block where there would not be active harvesting.

Manager Shane mentioned that the topography of the forest would create a larger area where there would be less or no harvesting.

There was Committee discussion about how to decide what the terms ‘no cut’ and ‘preservation’ means. Robert Waterhouse said that Mr. Braunscheidel’s recommendations are meant to give the committee a guideline for areas of the forest and that the Committee’s role is to take that information and decide if, when or how the recommendations

are executed.

There was discussion of how slopes dictate the type of tree that grows and how that may accomplish the goal of preserving an area of forest. Sally Stockwell still wants to set aside an area regardless of accessibility for foresting. SM-defining zones as caps on harvesting- are there any areas that would be defined as in need of harvesting.

Bruce Wildes asked if, referring to high density red pine, by doing nothing, are they prolonging that continuum. He thought that the original goal was to make sure the forest stays economically neutral. How much do they need to do this?

Jay Braunscheidel was nervous about placing economic constraints on harvesting. He felt that they should let biological factors drive it.

There was discussion about what a \$5,000 -10,000 cut looks like. How much would be shaded on a map? Is there something driving the need for harvesting like eliminating invasive species (methods of elimination cited were mechanical vs. manual and whether this can happen at the same time as a harvest), encouraging wildlife habitat and other types of trees that would be beneficial to the forest?

Robert Waterhouse summarized the question of the need to eradicate the buckthorn problem while at the same time needing to harvest to make this possible.

There was discussion of being budget neutral. For example: harvesting some of the wood to offset the cost of eliminating the buckthorn while making sure that the community sees that the forest is not a drain on the Town.

Robert Waterhouse asked if there is anyone on the committee who opposes being budget neutral if this means harvesting?

The area where the buckthorn is worst is where the Red Pine is located.

The Committee discussed lighter more frequent cuts as opposed to heavier less frequent as well as aesthetics and the current market for the wood. How the affects of the harvest will have on the community's experience in the forest and its reception to the prospect of purchasing additional land.

A marketing plan to communicate this to the community was suggested.

Next Steps:

- Show where the major buckthorn problem is
- Show where the red pine is and where first harvest would be/how does this affect the zoning
- Topography map
- Educational component to involve abutting residents.

Sally Stockwell would like to include an expanded no cut area.

Robert Waterhouse would like to see a harvest schedule.

Manager Shane reminded the Committee that a management plan comes before harvesting plan and they need a draft document that the Committee can review and make recommendations or changes.

A Draft will be completed for the September meeting.

III. Parking

Public hearings regarding Range Road reconstruction will be held. The committee needs to make a recommendation about parking to the Council regardless of the road reconstruction.

Sally Stockwell made a motion to recommend three designated parking spaces on Range Road at the entrance of Rines Forest with over flow parking on Idlewood Drive. Robert Heyner seconded the motion.

VOTE: 7-0 UNANIMOUS PASSAGE

IV. Other Business

- a) Next meeting – 7:00 p.m. September 18, 2008

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted by,

Nancy Stroud, Recording Secretary