



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, November 18, 2008
7:00 PM – Town Hall East Conference Room

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

Excused: Jennifer West, Lisa Judd, Jeff Porter

I. Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 6:55 p.m.

II. Approval of October 23, 2008 meeting minutes

Bruce Wildes made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 23, 2008 minutes. Richard Sweetser seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0 in favor.

III. Continuation of review of Forest Management Plan – Jay Braunscheidel

Jay Braunscheidel began by reviewing the recommendations for a 2010 harvest, described where the forest would be allowed to continue to grow and how much harvesting would be done in other areas.

Sally Stockwell asked if Mr. Braunscheidel could talk about focus species forestry.

A vast amount of the forest is mature. There was discussion about what types of species would be the most likely to be present or have the chance of being present depending on how the forest is treated.

There was discussion of whether the harvesting would be revenue neutral. Bruce Wildes asked about the value of pulp wood.

Robert Waterhouse arrived at 7:28 p.m.

Mr. Braunscheidel recapped that there will be a section of the forest that is never harvested; another that will be lightly cut then more successive cuts in other areas.

Bruce Wildes asked what type of machinery would be used. Mr. Braunscheidel said that large stands would need large equipment. Mr. Wildes also asked about the impact on the ground cover and how that will affect regenerating species. Mr. Braunscheidel talked about how the timing of the harvest will affect regeneration and impact. For example a harvest in the winter would not disturb the ground as much as other seasons.

There was discussion regarding how the property would be accessed. Several people said that Dale Rines has mentioned that it could be possible to use the existing roads on his property.

Mr. Braunscheidel asked for feedback on the timing of the harvests. Was this prescription acceptable to the committee?

Bruce Wildes felt that the first cut in 2010 should be the most aggressive due to market conditions. Subsequent cuts could be adjusted after that.

The committee members discussed the reaction of the public to any harvesting. Robert Waterhouse thought that whatever is done, there will be public outcry as to what is happening. Steve Moriarty mentioned that the area that would be forested is remote and not as clearly visible from the road. He felt that people would most likely notice the traffic of the machinery and vehicles used to harvest the wood.

Sally Stockwell would like to see the plantation areas turn into uneven staged tracts.

Mr. Braunscheidel suggested that the committee do a site walk to be able to see what he has prescribed and then go to a site that has had a harvest so that they can see what it would look like afterward.

Robert Heyner felt that the committee had enough information to move forward.

Manager Shane suggested that the committee put the recommendations into the plan then they can take time over the winter to discuss whether any alterations need to be made.

Bruce Wildes asked that the public be well educated prior to beginning any harvesting.

Steve Moriarty suggested presenting the plan to the Council in a workshop meeting before placing it on the agenda.

Manager Shane reminded the committee that this part of the forest management plan was just a small part of the general Rines Forest Management Plan.

Sally Stockwell asked that a range of removal be included to give some flexibility and expand the reserve areas.

There was discussion on access to the reserve area being that it would be accessible to people but no harvesting would be done. A map with the slopes overlain with the areas would be created to decide where the reserve area would be expanded to.

Mr. Braunscheidel asked if the committee wanted to reference to appendices or to include it as part of the document. It was decided to reference the information.

Robert Waterhouse made a motion to accept the forest management plan as presented in concept and to be finalized at the next meeting when the harvest ranges are included and the reserve area is more clearly defined. Robert Heyner seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0 in favor.

IV. Next Meeting, Thursday, December 18th @ 7:00 p.m. at the Cumberland Town Hall.

V. Other Business

Bruce Wildes said that the CCLT conducted the base line data walk through and all data will be on file. The Committee will be provided with a copy of the report.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Nancy Stroud
Recording Secretary