

Moretown Forestry Management

Meeting Tuesday 3/21/23

Meeting Notes

Attendees; John Hoogenboom, Steve Robbins, Chris Stephenson, Mike Brown, Don Wexler

➤ Mission Statement and Time Line

Update Forestry Management Plan as required with State. Plan is to include conservation easement with updated plan. July/August target for review by Vt Land Trust & Wildlife Biologist. Keep public in loop with postings on FPF and Town website. Public Comment meeting projected date 10/1/23. Discussion as to notifying abutters to plan update and pending logging operations as a neighborly thing to do.

➤ RecTrails/Eco Classes and Forestry Management Plan

Trail Improvements and buffer zone to ECO classrooms. Document miles of existing trails. Trail layouts to change but not miles. Plan is for better trail layout, coordination with ECO classrooms and more accessibility and safety. Access for emergency equipment to be reviewed and created.

➤ Hunting Zones

Remap hunting zones with ECO classrooms. Increased signage and use metal signs with creation of buffer zones and classrooms. Coordination of hunting zones and classroom locations to be reviewed. No trapping. Seek public comment on hunting.

➤ Tree Harvest and Natural Areas

Forest harvest in Zones 1,2 &3 to be included in plan. This will mostly be the harvesting of old growth pine and to help the understory as well as wild life habitat. Tree work required around ECO classrooms for safety some of which will be done during logging operations.

➤ Apple Trees

Old growth apple trees to be saved and trimmed by volunteers. Suggested 30' radius around apple trees to encourage growth and deer yard.

➤ Access and Safety

As discussed under Rec Trails.

➤ Banning Pesticides

This item will be continued to be reviewed as to selective use to control evasive species such as wall lettuce. General consensus was not to use pesticides. This will certainly be a community input item.

➤ Amphitheatre

Not part of forestry management plan just on agenda as a possible addition to the area.

➤ Next Steps and Next Meeting

Next Meeting 4/19/23 5:00 pm at Town Offices.