



GOSHEN MUNICIPAL FOREST BOARD MEETING

December 7, 2022 | 7 PM

Unapproved Minutes

Board Members Present: Tom Bahre (Chair), Jeff Whiting (Vice Chair), Jim Pulver, State Game Warden Wes Butler, Bill Mathis (SB Chair), Tammy Walsh (SB), and Thomasina Magoon (SB)

Public Present: Andy Hutchison, Goshen's Forester; Tracy Wyman, Jon Wyman, and David Todd

Absent: Goshen Treasurer, Susanne George

1. Call Meeting to Order

7 PM

Meeting was called to order by Tom Bahre

2. Public Comment

Opportunity for the public to briefly present issues, ideas, and concerns. Tom Bahre asked if anyone present had any public comment.

3. Review and approve previous minutes

Jim Pulver made a motion to approve the minutes from 1-19-2021, motion seconded by Jeff Whiting, no discussion, all in favor. Minutes approved.

4. Election of Officers

Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary positions open for election. The Treasurer for Town of Goshen serves as the Treasurer for the Forest Board Since the GMF came under the ownership of the Town.

Thomasina Magoon motioned that Tom Bahre continue as Chair, seconded by Jeff Whiting, all in favor, motion passes.

Thomasina Magoon motioned that Jeff Whiting continue as Vice-Chair, seconded by Jim Pulver, all in favor, motion passes.

Jeff Whiting nominated Thomasina Magoon as Secretary, Jim Pulver seconded, all in favor, motion passes.

5. Foresters Report & Review of Forest Inventory – Andy Hutchison

Andy Hutchison, Town Forester, handed out copies of the Report and accompanying Map. Discussion ensued regarding discrepancies of acreage of the forest.

The report reflects a summary of the data collected and those data points, roughly 160, are reflected on the map. They are then delineated into Forest Stands which is consistent with what was presented 15-16 years when the last



report was completed. They tried to keep the same standard of boundaries, but modified things as the forest type indicated. There are few adjustments, but not many.

A few questions Andy reiterated that are asked are: How do we prioritize what needs to be cut and what are the sugaring opportunities? Andy explained how to read the report.

Andy noted that in the past management decisions were not entirely made from a forestry/timber/production perspective. There was input from wildlife interests, recreation and whatever else wanted to play into it. His end is the timber side and the value of what's there—so it needs to be looked at with other sets of eyes and degree of input.

Jeff Whiting noted that our management of the forest is governed by is the original Shirley Farr Deed—which is why the Town of Goshen was able to buy to ensure it is managed in good forestry practice. We are required to invest annual into forest maintenance.

Tracy Wyman reiterated the history of the purchase of the Town Forest by Goshen and the reasons for such.

Tom Bahre asked how we plan to proceed on creating a plan. Jeff Whiting commented that in the past Dave Rowden involved Fish & Wildlife to assist. Warden Wes Butler commented that he would run this by the State biologists.

Jim Pulver mentioned that there are already identified areas by the state that we can recognize and protect.

Tom is suggesting we take time to collect a diversity information to make an informed decision. Bill Mathis asked that at this time what would his recommendation be.

Andy said that one priority would be any stand with a higher concentration of White Ash. This would be a preemptive measure due to the Emerald Ash Borer. He identified Stand 4 as being a concentrated stand. The second recommendation perspective would be identifying which stands have a high board footage volume per acre and high basal area per acre. Foresters look at these metrics when making harvesting decisions. Two stands that fit in this perspective are Stand 1 and Stand 10.



Warden Butler inquired about the timber harvest timeline schedule, is it one year or two years out. Andy says there is no immediacy in harvesting.

Tom Bahre asked about the Ash Borer and if it was a current problem we needed to immediately address. Andy said Stand 4 is not a large stand and not too difficult to address if need be.

Jim Pulver asked if there any stand that need to be cuts when the ground is frozen? Andy said winter logging is a good thing is one respect, and sometimes there are better conditions in the summer. The equipment being used is also a factor.

Tom Bahre will be developed and possibly implemented following next years meeting. Jeff Whiting stated that one of the criteria in the will was to have the forest available for recreation. VAST uses the Class 4 road and a few roads near the Basin. Thomasina said she would check with VAST on our current agreement.

Bill Mathis would like to have something on Wildlife in the plan. And what is changing in this area.

Jim Pulver would like to add that the Town Plan has a lot of information regarding the Town Forest and how it should be managed and utilized by the town and he suggested we use it as a reference.

6. Maple Sugaring Opportunities

Looking at different stands and see which has the higher concentration of Sugar Maples. Usually, 40-50 taps per acre is the threshold and economically feasible to spread tap lines. However, this property is difficult because of its remoteness and getting sap out. Stand 24 could be tapped and gravity flow into the existing taps line that Ethan West is current leasing.

Andy notes that once a hole is drilled in a butt log in a tree it reduces the value of the tree.

Dave Todd noted that 15 years ago or so, the Town paid him and others to clean up the mess that was left in the forest before it was logged. There is still a mess in the woods. Jeff Whiting suggested that if we went into another contract, we would certainly have a bond included in the new agreement for clean-up—learning from the last experience.



Tom said that this issue will be addressed at the meeting next year when we are working on the plan.

7. Beaver Issues

Jeff Whiting said that right now where Basin Brook crosses the Middle Road there is a dam that is very full and if it lets go...

Tracy Wyman has concerns about this as this is his water system and if this let's go, he loses his water source, and Jon's.

Discussion ensued on how to eradicate this long-standing Beaver problem—and protect the Wyman's water source and the Basin.

8. Financial Report

Thomasina will obtain from Treasurer and include with minutes.

Tom Bahre reiterated that we spent some money on road maintenance this past year. Tracy noted that where the board spent the money on maintaining and adding water bars near Chittenden—is gone, washed away. They need to contact Chittenden that they need to do something. Jeff mentioned that Chittenden threw up the middle road and it is now a trail. Tracy is saying that landowners in Chittenden might be responsible for maintaining erosion issues after a logging. Andy is not sure if municipalities have to adhere to these same guidelines. Current Use does require adherence to maintenance after a job is complete. Discussion ensued regarding this issue flooding out Goshen Town Forest lands.

Tracy also does not want to see the money that GMF invested wash away. He offered to talk to the Town of Chittenden and the Rutland County Forester regarding this issue. The board gave permission for him to do so.

9. New Business

Dave Todd presented a photo of the Town Forest northern boundary markers and that the board may want to consider repainting/marking these boundary markers—they have not been touched in 30 years.

Jeff Whiting asked Wes Butler about whether we could get some fingerling trout for the forest's ponds.

10. Motion to Adjourn

8 PM

Bill Mathis made a motion to adjourn, someone (?) seconded, all in favor, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomasina Magoon, GMTF Secretary



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