

**Ware River Watershed Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016**  
**7:00 PM**

**Location:** Franklin Wood Studio, 232A Main Street, Rutland, MA 01543 (Behind Police/Fire Station)

**Members:** (Members in **BOLD** were present)

Massachusetts Council of Sportsmen: Robert Carey, William Label

Alternate: Mike Moss

Worcester County League of Sportsmen: John Root

Alternate: Dave Papale

Trout Unlimited: **Jeffrey Schaaf (Co-Chairman)**

Alternate:

A Rod and Gun Club: Joe Cataldo

Alternate: Brian Waterman

Barre Selectboard: **Martha Varnot**

Alternate: **Edward Yaglou**

Hubbardston Selectboard: **Thomas Bratko**

Alternate:

Oakham Selectmen: Thomas Hughes

Alternate: **Phillip Warbasse**

Rutland Selectmen: **Charles R. Williams**

Alternate: **Brett Russ**

Barre Historical Society: **Margo Petracone**

Alternate: Peg Frost

Hubbardston Historical Society:

Alternate:

Oakham Historical Society: Wes Dwelly

Alternate: **Bill Mucha**

Rutland Historical Society: **Helen Viner**

Alternate: Tim Nahrwold

Massachusetts Wildlife Federation: Bill Westaway (Co-Chairman)

Alternate: **Thomas Berube**

Massachusetts Audubon Society: **Martha Gach**

Alternate:

Sierra Club: Matt Hopkinson

Alternate:

Upper Ware River Watershed Association: Donald Rich

Alternate: **Edward Yaglou**

General Public: Mark DuBois

Alternate: **Dave Small**

**DCR Staff Present:**

Ken Canfield, Herm Eck, Justin Gonsor

**Members of the Public Present:**

Dean Zuppio

**Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Start Time: 7:01 PM**

**Approval of Minutes of Meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

Tom Bratko made a motion to accept the minutes from the WRWAC meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Phillip Warbasse seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**Ware River Watershed FY17 Forestry Lot Proposals**

Herm Eck presented 4 Ware River Watershed forestry projects proposed for harvest.

The 1<sup>st</sup> lot proposed is located off of Whitehall Road in Rutland, MA and the details of that lot are as follows:

- 48 acres total
- 23 acres of thinned red pine, 2 aged; 20 acres of white pine/oak
- Red pine and oak/pine forest types
- Mortality present in red pine stand due to insects/disease
- Red pine overstory will be removed, enough advanced regeneration underneath to avoid openings
- Several 0.5 to 2 acre openings located in white pine/oak stand targeting low quality white pine and hardwood
- Vernal pools and cellar hole present

Herm Eck commented that this lot has been harvested a few times over the past 30 years.

Martha Gach asked about the specifics of the filter strip to be used around the vernal pool located inside the lot. Herm Eck answered that no cutting will occur within 15 ft. of the vernal pool, a shade zone maintained for 100 ft. away from the pool, and no rutting or major skid roads within 200 ft. of the pool.

Dean Zuppio asked if cutting will occur in the winter months. Herm Eck answered that it is a possibility since no seasonal restrictions will be put in place.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> lot proposed is located off of Coldbrook Road in Barre, MA and the details of that lot are as follows:

- 31 acres total
- White pine/hemlock forest type
- Low quality, low tree species and age diversity
- One opening up to 3 acres, several 0.5 to 2 acre openings targeting low quality white pine
- Stream crossing required

The 3<sup>rd</sup> lot proposed is named the Barre Heath Project in Barre, MA and the details of that lot are as follows:

- The plan for this project was developed with cooperation from the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program
- 20 acres
- Old field pine with some pitch pine and oak
- Goal to expand heath habitat by removing white pines
- Continuation of rare inland heath habitat restoration (phase 2), phase 1 was approved last year
- This harvest will complete removal of understory white pine that has taken over parts of the site
- DCR commissioner approval will be required because opening size will exceed 5 acres

Ken Canfield talked about maintaining the site into the future through the use of prescribed burns. Herm Eck mentioned that this fall would be the earliest a burn could potentially happen. Masswildlife's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program will take the lead on burn planning. Prescribed burns are done

at different times throughout the year, sometimes to avoid the breeding season of a particular species.

The 4<sup>th</sup> lot proposed is located off Interval Road in Rutland, MA and the details of that lot are as follows:

- 62 acres total
- 38 acres of white pine/hardwood; 24 acres of white pine hemlock
- Closed canopy, low tree species and age diversity
- Several 0.5 to 2 acres openings targeting low quality white pine

Herm Eck mentioned that this lot was part of the Smith's property and was purchased by DCR in the mid 1990's.

Tom Bratko asked about the status of the Asian long horned beetle in the area. Herm Eck answered that the beetles have not been found in any new locations recently.

A public tour of the Ware River Watershed proposed forestry projects was scheduled for June 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM with a meet up location at the parking area where Route 122/Coldbrook Road intersects.

Dave Small made a motion to approve the plan for the proposed Barre Heath forestry restoration project. Phil Warbasse seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Brett Russ asked about how much board feet is projected to be cut on each lot. Herm Eck answered that board feet information is available on the cutting plan that gets created for each lot. Each forestry lot that is sold has a cutting plan that gets posted online for public viewing.

### **Member Issues**

Jeff Schaaf talked about an email he recently received from a member of the public who was confronted in the Ware River Watershed by a member of the committee. Martha Varnot encountered someone driving in the watershed in an area closed to vehicles and alerted him of the regulations. The driver complained that only one side of the road was gated; the road he drove in on wasn't gated. He was able to drive in via an intersection which would need multiple gates erected to block vehicles.

Dick Williams asked about the red pine scale and if DCR has been able to keep up with harvesting them before they die. Ken Canfield answered that most of the larger patches in the Ware River Watershed have already been harvested; but some small patches still exist.

Dick Williams asked about the status of another invasive species, the emerald ash borer. Herm Eck mentioned that it has been found in the state, but not yet on any watershed property.

There was discussion about invasive species in general and how they can affect forest health. Having invasive species present in a forest can alter selling quality of wood and limit markets of where this wood can be sold.

Dick Williams recently picked up a handful of signs that he'll be placing along the rail trail alerting visitors that dogs should be on a leash.

**Meeting End Time: 7:52 PM**

**Upcoming WRWAC Meetings**

- Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 7 PM – Franklin Wood Studio, 232A Main Street, Rutland, MA 01543 (Behind Police/Fire Station)