

Comments and Notes from Public Meeting for Shutesbury State Forest – Amherst, MA
February 27, 2018

Attendees: Bridget Lively, Steven Ward, Bruce Spencer, Jennifer Fish, David Celino, Mollie Freilicher

Bruce Spencer

- 1.) Whole Tree Harvesting – Asked what logging machinery has been required, if any, at this point. Specifically mentioned that he didn't see "any redeeming value to using a whole tree harvesting system; if anything it would be degrading to the site". This comment sparked a discussion between Bill Hill, Bruce Spencer and Keith DiNardo regarding when and how DCR would use a whole tree harvesting system on state land. The point was made that processing trees in the woods and leaving slash in the woods has many redeeming values, including soil stabilization and nutrient recycling to the site being logged.
- 2.) Commented that the "unnamed brook" on the site that Keith described is locally referred to as "Canada Brook".
- 3.) Asked if DCR uses any regeneration specifications in regards to gap placement and size and if any advanced regeneration was present on the site. Keith explained that he uses GIS to create random points which he uses for gap placement on a site. He will field check the points to assess the regeneration present and determine at that time if the area is appropriate for gap placement.
- 4.) Commented that a sawmill was set up in the southern portion of the state forest several decades ago.
- 5.) Asked if moose browse was a concern in the project area. He suggested looking at neighboring DWSP lands that have had small openings implemented on them to check for browse levels.
- 6.) Asked about the elevation change along the eastern road and property in general. Commented that there is a long uphill "pull" on the property.

Steve Ward

- 1.) Commented that using LiDAR to identify cultural features in the project area might be useful.
- 2.) Asked if we certify our vernal pools while conducting field work for our harvesting projects. Keith DiNardo made the point that all potential vernal pools, whether certified or not, will be treated as certified and that the DCR Ecologist is the person who would likely do the paperwork to certify a vernal pool on DCR land.
- 3.) Commented that DCR DSPR should not be using in-kind services to fix portions of the old town road on the eastern boundary of this parcel of Shutesbury State Forest. He commented that road maintenance is the responsibility of DCR DWSP and that the MWRA has plenty of money to fix the road.
- 4.) Commented that a group of Shutesbury citizens have been identifying indigenous stone landscapes in Shutesbury.
- 5.) Commented that Shutesbury State Forest would be an ideal location for a primitive camp site with compost toilet on the New England Scenic Trail.
- 6.) Commented that he would like to view old historic maps of Shutesbury State Forest that are in the Amherst field office. He asked if he would need to file a public record request in order to look at the maps. Peter Church responded that he could be in touch with Bill Hill or Keith DiNardo to view the maps instead of filing a request.
- 7.) Asked if the project will respect the BMP's that DCR DWSP use on their timber sales within the Quabbin Watershed. A discussion on the level of collaboration between DCR DWSP and DSPR

followed. Keith DiNardo mentioned that he has already reached out to DWSP foresters and that he will continue to communicate with them during the planning of the project.

Comments and Notes from Public Meeting held at DCR Regional Headquarters, Pittsfield MA - February 28, 2018
Regarding forestry proposals at Lindon W Bates Memorial State Park, October Mountain State Forest, and Conway State
Forest

Attendees: John Galt, Richard Stafursky

John Galt

1. Asked for an explanation of the American beech control treatment proposed at the Bates Sate Park. Keven Podkowka, Management Forester Northern Berkshires District explained why American beech and the disease complex that affects it can become recalcitrant and a site occupier. He also explained that not all of the beech would be killed but enough to create growing space for a variety of species.
2. Asked what happens to the harvested wood form the timber sales. There was explanations offered from the Management Foresters present on timber markets in Massachusetts and New England and the probable track of harvested wood to the area and Canada.
3. Offered that forest management was "carbon negative". A debate and discussion ensued relating to the tradeoffs and benefits of forest management, the use of forest products and the carbon cycle.

Richard Stafursky

1. Commented that the forestry proposed and presented was not scientific and asked that all of the proposed forestry projects not proceed.