

Craftsbury Municipal Forest Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2023, 6:30 pm, Town Hall

Members in attendance: Barbara Alexander, Ann Ingerson, Jim Jones, Logan Jones, Robert Linck, Stuart LaPoint

Members not attending: Ben Alexander, Rob Libby, Jim Moffatt, Chris Sanville, Jane Solomon

Black River Tree Planting

Stuart and Jim J. have contacted several landowners with land along the Black River between the Cemetery Road and the Albany town line.

- Some landowners were uninterested in any tree planting on their land.
- Others were opposed to any long-term contract commitments or government funding. Most federally-funded programs do require a commitment to maintain planted buffers for some period of time from 1 to 30 years. However, not all state-funded programs carry this requirement, so we may be able to work with individual land-owners to find programs that fit their needs.
- Committee members suggested contacting the owner of the land north of the Black River Road on the east bank of the river. Stuart will reach out to him.

The sense of the committee is that we should not use the funds from previous town forest harvests to purchase trees for planting on private land. Logan will investigate private funding sources, such as through Ducks Unlimited or Trout Unlimited. He thought we would have no trouble recruiting volunteers to help plant.

Barbara suggested starting with a pilot program of just a few trees on the sites with most potential, to see how well they do.

Ann will respond to Sarah Damsell of the Orleans Natural Resources Conservation District to:

- Let her know that we are still working on landowner outreach;
- Ask what programs if any require no long-term landowner commitment; and
- Convey our interest in a small trial planting if she ever has surplus trees.

Town Forest Signs

Ann has 10 signs available. In May, Logan will help locate the boundaries using GPS and any others interested can join to post the signs. We'll set a date during our next meeting.

Next Meeting

Thursday, **May 11 at 6:30 pm on the Common**

- Inventory health of Common trees, and note any needs for pruning, replacement, etc.
- Set a date for sign installation

Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.