

Note:

Not one single guideline or condition required by the HCRS Lange Forest grant contract is mentioned anywhere in any document leading up to and including the complete content of the April 2014 Forest Management Plan. The Plan was specified by the David Matthews Forest Board. Authorizing the expenditure for the FMP (which Matthews told the SB required Voter approval) was signed by SB Chair Daly (Colby and Barrett). The FMP is dated April 14, under SB Chair Barrett (McGrath and Berger).

There is no evidence of public approval, involvement or even notice about the FMP until this FTFB report on March 4, 2014.

Fairlee Town Forest Board – 2013

We began the year soliciting bids from consulting foresters to prepare a fifteen year forest management plan for the three town forests (Fairlee Forest-700 acres; the William Lange Memorial Forest – 770 acres; and, the Gravel Pit – 98 acres). Redstart Forestry, Corinth, Vermont was the responsible low bidder for the work. The management plan will be approximately 80% complete at the end of 2013. The plan will address the management priorities, in descending order:

recreation, wildlife habitat and timber income. Specific conditions and guidelines put forth by the state/federal grant contract in the William Lange Memorial Forest will be emphasized and adhered to as well. When complete, the plan will project timber stand improvement prescriptions over the course of the next fifteen years.

A research project has been ongoing since late August to determine the precise guidelines for the use of the stumpage receipts which are tracked in three individual accounts. We hope to present our findings to the select board by the end of January, 2014.

A recently formed non-board group, Friends of the Fairlee Forest has been actively soliciting help in marking and mapping roads and trails throughout the three parcels. They are coordinating their efforts with the board, the consulting foresters and the snow mobile organization. For anyone who is interested in helping, please contact Lynne Fitzhugh (ldfitzhugh@yahoo.com) or Hink Herrick (hinkherrick@gmail.com). We are sincerely grateful to Lynne and Hink for bringing the experts in and directing our attention to an extremely unique portion of the town of Fairlee "The Great Fairlee Wetlands". The generosity of the Lake Morey Inn owners and staff should be noted as they made available a conference room, at no charge, for the presentation.

Jim O'Donnell's assistance in mentoring the new chairman has been invaluable and we hope he continues to sit on the board and participate in the management of the town forests.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim Cramer
Peter Lange
Terry Lewis
Jim O'Donnell
David Matthews