

From: bill.weale
Subject: Fwd: Fairlee Logging project
Date: July 8, 2020 at 1:49 PM
To: David Paganelli



Hello David—

Last Sunday, while checking out the new version of Knox Road, I noticed a couple of pieces of equipment had been dropped off. I mentioned this on Monday AM to our T-A and asked him what they were going to harvest now. He had no idea, nor did anyone else in the Town Hall. That evening at a Zoom-based SB meeting, the T-A shared an email he had received that afternoon from the FB chairman. It stated that 1) yes, Bruce Limlaw has started a new treatment on Knox Road; 2) that he did not want to notify folks and upset them before they started and that 3) he would send a contract to Markus who would get it signed by Bruce and returned to Markus who would return it to Matthews so he could send a copy to the town. 4) There was also a map attached, made by Redstart, which showed the area to be logged, included within which were a couple of patch cuts. Total area, which I asked someone else to determine: 96.7 acres. No idea what type of cut.

I've not yet heard anything regarding my note to Markus. I have scheduled with the T-A to meet him tomorrow to drop off and explain to him an extensive set of files documenting 1) the administrative aspects of the FB/SB from 1978 (pre Lange Forest, which was created by the HCRS grant in 1980) through to the present; and 2) an operational/financial spreadsheet summary of all of the Town Treasurer's reports regarding TF logging which has appeared in the Annual Town Reports from 2010 through 2019.

When I Zoomed out of the meeting, the T-A and SB members were perplexed and at that point had no idea how to proceed.

So, just to keep you in the loop I've attached a copy of my email to Markus below. If you have any comments, ideas or suggestions, I'd welcome them.

I would like to include in my research for the SB many of the comments you've made concerning my questions. In fairness to you, I'd like you to let me know if you have any reservations or concerns about my doing so. I realize these essentially are public records, but there's also a human part of this too. I would like to benefit from your experience and continuing support—or criticism—whichever it may be.

Thanks again,

Bill

Begin forwarded message:

From: bill.weale
Subject: Fairlee Logging project
Date: July 7, 2020 at 11:59:19 AM EDT
To: Markus Bradley <markus@fairleevt.org>
Cc: Fairlee Town Administrator <townadministrator@fairleevt.org>

Hello Mr. Bradley—

I've resided on Lake Morey Road, near the South end of the lake, since 1978. Over the years, I've become increasingly frustrated with the deterioration with the woods roads and trails in Fairlee's forests.

I'm not convinced your business has been made fully aware of the covenants the Town of Fairlee has made with the State of Vermont and the Federal Government under the terms of an H.C.R.S. grant agreement, executed in 1980. We are answerable, both to the state (20% financing) and the Federal (50% financing) governments regarding many factors, especially logging. That grant program is part of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

I have been in recent contact with Mr. Craig Whipple who was, at the time of our grant application, the State of Vermont's H.C.R.S. Grant Administrator. I believe he is now the Director of the Division of Vermont State Parks. Our town files contain several letters from Mr. Whipple to our Select Board which caution about the ancillary role of logging in the Lange Forest and the requirement that all proceeds be used to enhance specific activities.

After seeing for the first time the haul road constructed last year from the end of Knox Road, I began looking into our records in the Town Hall. (I was here when we voted to pursue the HCRS Grant and am well aware of the circumstances under which John and Irma Lange made their offer to the town.)

I was very concerned about the investment the town has made to build that road and the never-ending commitment we now have to maintain it, especially considering the uncontrolled use of 4WD vehicles and ATVs we have on our trails. More concerning, however, is that apparently another substantial logging project is about to start and that neither our Select Board nor our Town Administrator had any knowledge until I mentioned equipment had been unloaded at the

end of Knox road. There is no record in the Town Hall of your yield or price estimates, bid proposals, logging contract, etc.

Based upon the bid proposal you were given to create a FMP, the FMP itself and the logging activity—and its results—I wonder if your firm has been made aware of information you should know about? Through the years I've chalked up the forest trail and road erosion to poor oversight by the loggers and/or foresters. Bruce Limlaw and your firm, though, both have pretty good reputations in this area.

To be able to sort things out here, I'm asking you to ask Bruce to put a hold on further activity in the Lange Forest. If I'm missing something (I have done a lot of research during past few weeks) the hold might be short and harmless. I'm not authorized to order anything and I'm not being asked by anyone else to make this request. I am cc'ing the TA and the SB.

There is a lot more to discuss, which I'm more than willing to do. By merging the Lange Forest with the pre-existing Town Forest and treating them the same way, the only thing left of the Lange Forest is 3 signs. I am sorry we have to meet this way.

Best,

Bill Weale