

These minutes are subject to possible corrections/revisions at a subsequent Exeter Conservation Commission meeting.

## **Exeter Conservation Commission**

### *Draft Minutes*

Henderson Swasey Town Forest, Newfields Road Exeter

December 15, 2015

#### **Site Walk Notes:**

The Conservation Commission gathered at the Newfields Road entrance to the Henderson Swasey Town Forest at 2:00 pm. The purpose of the site walk was to meet with the contracted forester Charlie Moreno and review the logging plans.

Members Present: Carlos Guindon, Peter Richardson, Don Briselden, Cynthia Field, Bill Campbell.

Staff and Others Present: Kristen Murphy, Natural Resource Planner, Charlie Moreno & Greg Jordan consulting foresters, and trail users Ri Fahnestock, Mark Damsel, and Deb Humiston.

Mrs. Murphy presented a brief history of timber management for Henderson Swasey and introduced Charlie Moreno, consulting forester. Mr. Moreno presented an overview of the timber management plan update and led a walk through the forest.

#### Key notes:

1. Trees will be selectively cut with some small openings created.
2. In most areas (landings sites excepted) trees for removal have been marked. Different markings indicate tree quality.
3. Goal for removal is habitat enhancement, not financial gain. It is likely the logging operation will be revenue neutral with any proceeds likely going toward invasive plant control.
4. Selection of what trees to mark was based on examples such as whether the tree was diseased, what the crown condition was, and if removal would enhance growth of a more healthy/productive tree.
5. Road upgrade and landing preparation will require grading.
6. Trucks leaving the forest will require some form of traffic control.
7. Timing is based on conditions so identifying when the harvest will happen is difficult. Under consistent ideal conditions logging would take approximately 5 weeks.
8. For the safety of the logging operation trails would need to be closed to use. This will require coordination between the town, the forester and the logging company.