

Selectmen's Meeting  
July 28, 2016  
10:00 a.m.

The meeting opened at 10:00 a.m. Present were Selectmen George Donovan, Tony Palminteri and Glenn Dochtermann. Also, present were Joyce Wood and Fred Holt, Lyman Selectmen, Ed Sanborn, John Tibbetts and Nancy Harrison and representatives from the US Forest Service, Chris Woodall, PhD, Bill Leak and Mariko Yamasaki.

Introductions were made around the room and a sign-up sheet was passed around. George Donovan opened the meeting stating that we are here to discuss the letter written to the US Forest Service from the Selectboards of the two towns, Alfred and Lyman. He reported that he will turn the meeting over to Mr. Palminteri who took the lead in this in the beginning with the Board's approval.

Mr. Palminteri gave a brief timeline starting with e-mails and conversations with Chris Woodall, US Forest Service which prompted a joint letter from the two Towns to the US Forest Service expressing interest in the Massabesic Forest properties located in both Towns. He invited Mr. Woodall to speak to this letter.

Chris Woodall reported that the letter has been forwarded to his superiors and that he has been given the "OK" to proceed with a discussion to clarify the intent and to meeting with the two towns for further discussions.

Many aspects of the forest and the request were discussed to include:

- Laws governing the U.S. Forest – only congress has authority to buy, sell or convey property including buildings and or land. There is nothing on the "books" that governs transfer of land so a "bill" would have to be written and put before the Congress for a vote. The Towns responsibility would include contacting State reps or Senator(s) to sponsor a bill such as this.
- Good Neighbor Program – This program provides for partnerships for forest management with other organizations. He gave example of a snowmobile club. The Massabesic forest has worked with the towns on gating, road improvements and cleaning up debris.
- Research Forest – Research is ongoing with some federal funds to support this. There is a lack of funds to be able to manage all of the acreage. The current research cover wildlife, forest regeneration, snow tracking studies, work with Maine Medical on mosquito studies and aquatic studies as well as other projects. When Mr. Palminteri asked what the response from the Forest Service might be, Mr. Woodall responded that "in his opinion" the stipulation that these research programs would still be in place on a long term basis would probably be required if any transfer of lands was to be made. There is approximately 10 to 20% of the property in research and more according to the type of research.
- Tree management. The last cut in this portion of the forest was in 2007/2008. Again not enough funding to manage this properly.
- Enforcement: Enforcement is done currently through the White Mountain National Forest Department. They work closely with their staff member, John Janelle.

These topics and others were discussed in detail by all present with questions asked.

Both Town Selectboards agreed that the purpose in making the request is to be able to use the property for recreation, education, continued research and management of the forest with some potential income to the municipalities. Shared and reviewed were copies of the Massabesic Experimental Forest Management Plan and information entitled: Massabesic Experimental Forest – key point to consider.

Mr. Leak stated that he would be happy to take anyone who wished on a tour of the property and many agreed to do so in the fall.

The next step to be taken will be, as agreed on, was that Chris Woodall will do a summary of this meeting and will speak with his superiors and try to come up with a letter of concerns/thoughts, giving the Towns a starting point with which they can begin the legislative process and that a “walk” will be set up in the fall.