

Wood Lot Land Use Sub Committee Meeting

August 1, 2018 Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Wood Lot Land Use Sub Committee of the Plymouth County Commissioners was called to order at 5:32 p.m. at the Hanover Town Hall, 550 Hanover Street, Hanover Massachusetts. Present were committee members Commissioner Chairman Daniel Pallotta, Maura Curran, Anthony Provenzano, Chief Andy Reardon, and Mark Townsend. Ted Flynn and Bob Sullivan were not able to attend the meeting.

Attendees in the audience included Treasurer Thomas O'Brien, Commissioner Sandra Wright, County Administrator Frank Basler, Plymouth Town Manager Melissa Arrighi, Karen Edwards, Brad Cushing, Charles Mathewson, Kevin Cassidy, and Frank Mand.

Chairman Pallotta called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Introduction – Mr. Pallotta opened the meeting with background on the Wood Lot, and an overview of the scope of what is in front of the committee. Each member introduced themselves. The County Wood Lot Use Committee includes

- Councilor Bob Sullivan from Brockton
- Selectman Ted Flynn from Duxbury
- Selectman Mark Townsend from Carver
- Selectman Anthony Provenzano from Plymouth
- Selectman Maura Curran from Scituate
- Fire Chief Andy Reardon from Norwell
- Commissioner Dan Pallotta from Hanover

Mr. Pallotta stated that the Committee makeup was to draw from different sections of the County. He discussed that the Commissioners have no agenda and are interested in all ideas to drive the best and highest use of the land. In the end, the committee will make a recommendation to the Commissioners.

Mr. Pallotta then discussed the charge of the Committee: To conduct reasonable due diligence and an appropriate review of all relevant and accurate information in order to make a recommendation to the Plymouth County Commissioners regarding the highest and best use of the 106-acre parcel of land purchased by Plymouth County in 1917 and commonly known as the Wood Lot, for the bodies politic and inhabitants of Plymouth County.

Discussion – Mr. Provenzano stated that RKG has completed an economic plan for the Town of Plymouth. Mr. Provenzano suggested inviting the Planner from the Town of Plymouth, Department Heads, and Melissa Arrighi, the Plymouth Town Manager, to give their perspective on infrastructure and ideas. Frank Basler will distribute the RKG Economic Plan to the Committee with the draft minutes.

Mr. Pallotta stated that the land is currently used for power easements, a cell tower, and a fire training area. He also stated that the County is in strong financial position and will not sell off land as a tool to raise cash. Also, he stated why each of the committee members were included.

Chief Reardon shared that the Plymouth County Fire Chiefs have used the Wood Lot starting approximately ten years ago for the technical rescue teams and training exercises. However, lack of access has caused the site to be challenging to get to and use. Chief Reardon shared where the training area was positioned on the lot.

Mr. Pallotta stated that the County, as a higher government, is not restrained by local zoning if the land use is for the benefit of the county. But if the property was sold, the under-lying zoning would be law.

Ms. Curran suggested that a plan for the County Wood Lot could be developed using local planning agencies. The suggestion was to reach out to the local planning agencies to understand their perspective.

Chief Reardon will discuss the needs of the County Fire Chiefs at an upcoming Fire Chief's meeting. Also, the Chief will reach out to County Police Chiefs to understand their needs.

Frank Basler, the County Administrator, offered to drive Committee members around the land if anyone is interested. Please call him at 781.718.9967 to set up a convenient time.

The next meeting will be in Plymouth and will discuss the current state of the land, and the surrounding infrastructure with Plymouth Dept Heads. The meeting will be targeted for mid-September.

Commissioner Wright welcomed the members to the Committee and stated that fire training is a critical need and something that she is very dedicated to.

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 PM.

Handouts:

- Wood Lot Use Committee Background Power Point

Respectfully submitted,
Frank Basler
County Administrator