



## TOWN OF NEWTOWN

**Conservation Commission Minutes**  
**February 24, 2015 at 7:00 PM**  
**Newtown Municipal Center, Meeting Room #3**  
**3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT 06470**

**In Attendance:** Bill Darrin (Chairman), James Ryan, Thomas Philbrick and Mark Boland

**Absent:** Karlyn Sturmer

**Staff:** Rob Sibley and Lynn Kovack (Clerk)

### **Meeting called to order at 7:03PM**

**Public Participation:** Michael McCarthy went over his Stonebridge Trail Proposal for Timber Harvesting. He first contacted the Commission in July of 2014. He would like the Commission to consider his proposal. He has been doing Timber Harvesting since 1981. He has come up with this proposal after studying the Yale Stewardship report. He will assist the Conservation Commission in land management on some properties. He will mark trees, Tally number of trees marked, determine approximate monetary value and report above to the Conservation Commission for review. Rob will forward a PDF he has of the Yale Stewardship report and will forward to the new Commissioners. Doing the timbering will help improve the property, it's wildlife, soil quality, water quality, etc. Mike explained that upon mutual agreement of #1 of the proposal (see attachments) he would then apply for a Forest practices permit from the Inland Wetlands Commission. There is a chunk of land with wetlands that will not be disturbed. Minimal disturbance will be done and will be graded and reseeded where necessary.

**Bill Darrin made a motion to accept #1 of the proposal, James Walsh (2nd) all in favor of following:**

Verbal agreement between Newtown Conservation Commission and Cross Cut Tree and Land Management LLC (contractor) to have contractor:

- A. Mark trees to be harvested with blue paint spots
- B. Tally number of trees marked and estimate volume (board feet)
- C. Determine approximate monetary value (using current stumpage market value)
- D. Report above to the Conservation Commission

### **Correspondence:**

Bill Darrin asked each Commissioner to and tell a little bit about themselves

**Thomas Philbrick** is a New Hampshire boy. He is a Biologist at WestConn with his focus on plants. The nature of species and species relationships. Wanted to contribute to the community since his children are now grown.

**Mark Boland** moved to Newtown in 1994 and put 3 boys through the school system. His youngest just went off to college and thought it would be opportune time to volunteer. His background is in business. He is the president of a small insurance company. We went to Penn State. He loves the rural nature of the Town

**James Ryan** has been in Newtown for about 26 years and has put a Daughter through the school systems. Though it would be opportune time to volunteer and contribute to the Community. He has a license in Landscaping Architecture. He bought a civil engineer business years ago and his

expertise is the Tech part of things. He works with storm water hydrology and evaluates properties for developers.

**Bill Darrin** retired as a Lawyer in October 2011. He joined to volunteer and thought conservation was an audible goal in life. He went to Hamilton College and Syracuse Law School. He studied law for approximately 20 years in the Berkshires in a small town called Hinsdale. He then went on to trial work with the Subway system for 20 years.

Bill explained the Commission is in a transition time. Commission has seen 3 experienced long term dedicated people retire in the space of approximately 7 months. With the new additions of Commissioners it brings out number up to 5. Karlyn has a bearacritic background. She started a small Commission in her town before coming to this Commission. She likes to do gardening and her expertise is something the Commission can rely on. There are still 2 seats to fill and will actively try to fill them. This is a big opportunity to set a new course for the Commission and keep it on a good path and build relationships in places they were not built before.

## **Administrative Items**

**Review of other Commissions-** No new updates to report

**Budget-(Sibley)** The Commission has a capital budget to purchase open space. We have put in for a line item for care and custody of open space. It has passed the first meeting with the Board of Selectman and now will go to the Board of Finance. The amount requested is \$14,000 to establish a few projects each year. we allocate that money for tree removal, fences, trail marking, parking, bridge crossing and surveying, etc. Things are moving along

Rob also pointed out that about 18 years ago Commission stated doing work for the Iriquois pipeline and requested that a fund be set up for open space. Rob will plan on doing a presentation of all accounts Commission has, how they work and balances to bring new and current Commissions up to date.

**2015 Calendar-** No new updates to report

## **Action Items**

**A. Open Space parcels-** No new updates to report

**B. Equestrian Trail Review-** James Ryan stated we have been at a bit of a stall. He has been involved with the Newtown Bridle Association and they are interested in establishing new trails for open space parcels that the Town currently have. 1 particular property is very difficult as wetlands are involved. They are still adamant about adding new trails. Since then another individual suggested there could be other properties. These people are very passionate about the Equestrian trail and Jim looked at a couple of these properties and then they became disconnected. He wants to reconnect and start talking more with them about establishing trails and not necessarily where and why they can't. Maybe if we refocus and explain why certain properties are not viable and maybe they can help us look at other alternatives for the Town. Jim thinks it is admirable the effort they are putting forward to try and establish these trails and the history associated with the Equestrian Community and do a little bit more on that. He will make it his focus to connect with the individuals who have contacted the town. Jim will distribute the names to the other Commissioners. He will try to revisit the issues. The Commissioners have walked the site many times and understand what can and can't happen there. Rob has a complete database of Open Space and the Commissioners can look over which may be helpful.

**C. Reduction of invasive species-** No new updates to report

**D. Conservation Education-** No new updates to report

**E. Outreach-** No new updates to report

**F. Monitor key natural resources-** No new updates to report

**Staff Report:** Commission recommends one meeting a month on forth Tuesday, will allow new commissioners to meet and review Land Use resources/filing, and will provide brief introductions to different facets of CC responsibilities at each of the following CC meetings.

**New Business-** No new Business to report

Meeting adjourned at 8:17pm Boland (M) Philbrick (2nd) all in favor

**These minutes are subject to Approval of the Conservation Commission**

See Attachments

Cross Cut Tree and Land Management  
P.O. Box 661  
Newtown, CT 06470  
Phone 203-426-3764  
Fax 203-426-1403  
Email [mdmccarthy@att.net](mailto:mdmccarthy@att.net)  
CT. Supervising Forest Products Harvester #000079

February 23, 2015

Newtown Conservation Commission  
3 Primrose Street  
Newtown, CT. 06470

I am writing to the Commission to hopefully open a conversation with you about timber harvesting on Town of Newtown Open space. My company has been in the timber harvesting business since 1981 primarily working in Western CT. and Eastern NY.. We have done many quality cuts in Newtown over the years, one of which your Commission was involved 148 Hanover Road, in 2012

Selective timber harvesting is one management tool which can be used to improve the timber and woodlot quality, enhance wildlife habitat, and raise need funds to manage existing Open Space, and acquire new parcels.

I have reviewed the Stonebridge Trail's report and think this would be an ideal parcel to begin the woodland management of Newtown's open spaces.

As the owner of Cross Cut tree I will mark the trees to be harvested, tally the amount of timber, estimate the amount paid to the landowner for the timber, and apply for all necessary permits.

Unlike many companies I actually do the cutting and skidding of the forest products personally.

I am looking forward to meeting with you and your Commission.

Thank You

Michael D. McCarthy

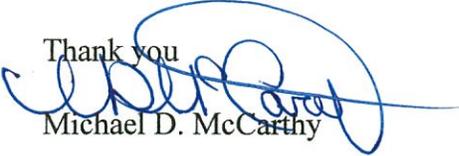
Cross Cut Tree and Land Management L.L.C.  
P.O. Box 661  
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Phone 203-426-3764  
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February 23, 2015

Stonebridge Trail Proposal:

1. Verbal agreement between Newtown Conservation Commission and Cross Cut Tree and Land Management LLC (contractor) to have contractor :
  - A. Mark trees to be harvested with blue paint spots
  - B. Tally number of trees marked and estimate volume (board feet)
  - C. Determine approximate monetary value (using current stumpage market value)
  - D. Report above to the Conservation Commission
2. Upon mutual agreement on above contractor will apply for Forest Practices Permit, from the Newtown Inland Wetlands Commission.
3. Upon issuance of the permit the Conservation Commission and the Contractor can enter into a contract for the timber harvest.
4. With a signed contract the Contractor can begin the Harvest.

Thank you

  
Michael D. McCarthy

Cross Cut Tree and Land Management L.L.C.

PO Box 661

Newtown, CT 06470

Phone [203] 426-3764

Fax [203] 426-1403

e-mail mdmccarthy@att.net

State of Connecticut SFPH 000079

TIMBER SALES AGREEMENT

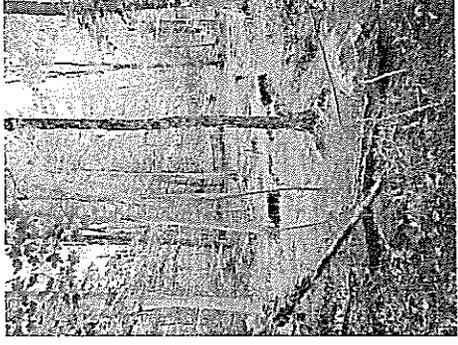
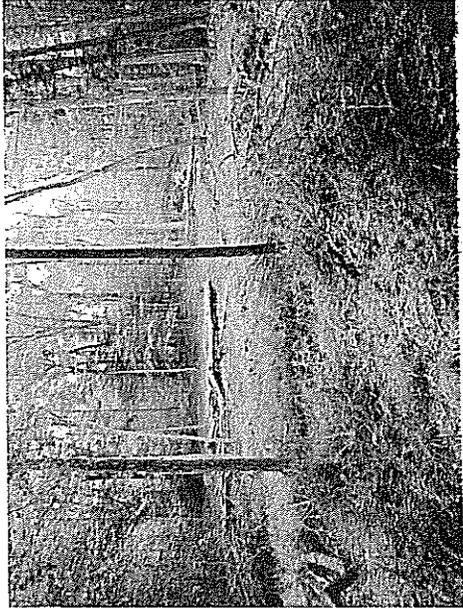
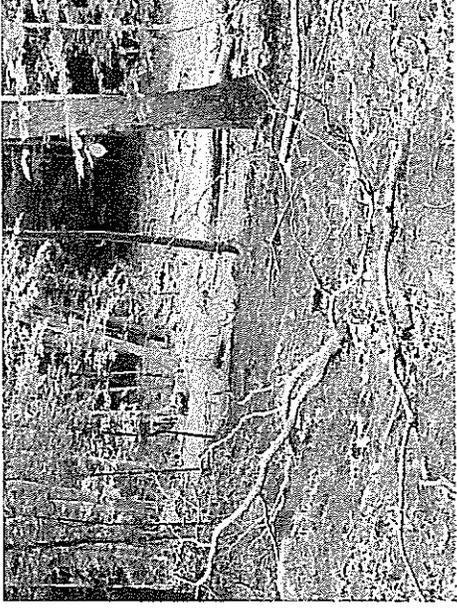
1. -----.(the landowner), agree to allow Cross Cut Tree and Land Management LLC (the contractor), to remove, in a Selective Timber Harvest, marked timber trees from the property at -----.
2. The Contractor agrees to:
  - a. Pay the Landowner every two weeks by Company check at a rate of 45% of the log buyer's payment for sawlogs after deducting trucking fees (if any).
  - b. Cut remaining stumps as low as possible
  - c. Cut remaining tops to 4 foot or less in height
  - d. Perform any necessary land restoration work to retain near original condition of the ground.
  - e. Maintain appropriate insurance during the Harvest and provide the Owner with a copy of an Insurance Certificate
3. The Owner agrees:
  - a. That he/she is sole owner or has Power of Attorney over the property
  - b. Any cut Timber is the property of the Contractor, to be sold as per section 2.
4. If ownership of the property changes or is pending the Owner **will** notify the Contractor so that cutting can be terminated and ground restoration (if needed) can begin.
5. Any disputes which might arise that can not be settled by the Owner and Contractor will be settled by a 3 (three) person panel, one chosen by the Owner, one by the Contractor and one mutually chosen by both Parties. The decision from the **majority** of this panel will be final and binding on both the Owner and the Contractor.
6. Term of this agreement will be 1 (one) year, additional time can be requested by either party.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Michael D. McCarthy, Contractor

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# 150 Hanover Road 2012



# Dug Hill Road 2014

