

1500–Acre Stakeholders Meeting Notes
Thursday, August 17, 2017
Simes House, Manomet

Attendance: Mary Griffin, Evelyn Strawn, Frank Mand, Sharl Heller, Paula Marcoux, Tim Simmons, Polly Hare, Eric Cody, Evan Schulman, Glorianna Davenport, Love Albrecht Howard, Anatol Zukerman, Lisa Meeks, Malcolm MacGregor, Patrick Farah, Harvey LeSueur, Don Williams, Pine DuBois.

Agenda

6:30 – Welcome – Coalition to Preserve Natural Plymouth

6:35 – Introductions

6:45 – Sharing of information and opinions regarding the Entergy 1500–acres/Emera Pine Dubois – Jones River Watershed Association (handout: *Emera's proposal is a bad idea: economically and environmentally*)

Eric Cody – Friends of Ellisville Marsh (*Environmental Handbook, Chapter 2*)

Others

7:10 – Ecological Review of the Entergy Property

Tim Simmons, Ecologist, Pine Barrens Specialist

7:40 – Group discussion: determining the scope of an environmental assessment

8:25 – Next steps

Tim Simmons – discussion leader

What do we know?

- Studies from 1970s
- Box turtle species/habitat
- Forest management plan/Chapter 61
- Manomet—abutter info.
- Wildlands Trust
- High point/view
- Cyclists' info regarding trails.
- Overfights—town/state (1927, 2008, 2014-15)
- Vernal pool maps

What do we need to know?

- Plant communities (habitat) survey
- Vista
- Endangered species
- Eco-tourism/economic development (mountain biking, hiking)
- Public safety/fire risk
- How much to do aerial surveys/remote sensing/on the ground? <\$100,000>
- GIS info.
- Aerial/on the ground surveys
- Counting species— increases cost!

Discussion

- Big picture/time issue!
- Access—60–acre survey/Emera—Can it be expanded to whole site?
- Alternative to Emera

- Coordinate recon. Survey TNC/Manomet/Wildlands Trust—
- Radiation/protection
- Work w/Entergy

Next steps:

- Agree survey needed – form subcommittee to draft survey scope of work
- Ask for response from Selectmen
- Contact Selectman John Mahoney
- Attend the Decommission panel/radiation buffer zone
 - NDCAP meeting for September is changed to September 27th.
- Develop full scope of study (peer review)
 - Emera one source
 - Look for other funding sources (Entergy)
- Include Manomet/Wildlands Trust/TNC
- Guidebook—Environmental projects completed in the Town of Plymouth

Information provided at the meeting by Eric Cody

For the scale of this property and a "planning-level" natural resource survey, the range of cost is expected to come in between \$30K and 100K. All deliverables will be GIS-referenced for mapping purposes. Some of the higher estimates include a fudge factor to cover unknowns and the likelihood of scope additions coming from the diverse mix of stakeholders. The deliverables, as I understand it, would include GIS maps with delineated areas of ecological communities and special resource features, e.g., old growth forest, vernal ponds, etc. (Results will need to be in a format that enables them to be fully integrated with the state's biomap overlay system.)

All the respondents would stop short of doing specific population counts of wildlife and vegetation, including threatened and endangered species--adding that level of detail would significantly extend the performance time frame and jack up the cost. (I absolutely agree with their assessment! We do population counts of vegetation and certain wildlife here in Ellisville and there are hundreds of hours associated with performing these tasks annually on only 71 acres)

The general structure of the work as we discussed it seemed to follow the same general path. Here are two summaries:

Firm 1 (lower end of cost range)

- 1) Kick-off meeting to review potential site information, history, and/or potential development concepts.
- 2) File MESA Information Request to determine what state-listed rare species have been observed on or proximate to the project site; presuming that the project site is, or partially, located within a mapped Priority/Estimated Habitat according to the 14th edition of the *Massachusetts Natural Heritage Atlas* (effective August 1, 2017).
- 3) Review pertinent resource maps, including, but not limited to, USGS Topographic Map, NRCS WebSoil Survey Map, MassGIS Oliver, BioMap2, USFWS Critical Habitat mapper, etc.

- 4) Multiple site evaluations to document existing habitat/vegetative cover types (natural communities), protectable Wetland Resource Areas (including potential vernal pools), hydrology, topography, soils, etc., in addition to actual wildlife habitat utilization.
- 5) Prepare NRI Report that reviews the findings from #3 (above) with an expanded discussion of potential wildlife habitat utilization, focusing on federal and/or state-listed rare species, complementing direct wildlife observations. The Report may include a potential development impact analysis, while providing recommendations (mitigating measures) to protect and/or enhance important rare and general wildlife/plant habitat. Relevant maps would be created to document the approximate extent of protectable Wetland Resource Areas, important wildlife/plant habitat, etc.
- 6) Meet with Team to review NRI (Natural resource Inventory) Report.

Firm 2 (higher end of cost range)

"As we discussed, an "ecological assessment" is a broad term which can be as simple as a GIS / remote data evaluation to a detailed site assessment and population surveys of plant communities and wildlife species. Per our discussion I understand you seek an estimate (guesstimate) for a middle of the road assessment comprised of:"

- Remote data assessment and mapping of community types using publicly available third-party data
- Site reconnaissance to field verify remote data and adjust community types boundaries for greater accuracy (GPS locate key boundaries)
- Conduct limited wildlife observation to document typical wildlife use and use by common migratory species
- Present results in a report
- Attend meetings as needed