

TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE
WATERSHED ADVISORY COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 19, 2009
TOWN HALL

The Watershed Committee of the Town of Waynesville held a meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 19, 2009, in the Waynesville Town Hall. Members present included Pat Maier, Karen Kaufman and Dave Dudek. Also present were Dr. Peter Bates, Rob Lamb and Jonathan Shaffer, representatives of Forest Stewards, an entity under Western Carolina University, which developed the Forestry Stewardship Plan for the Town, Lee Galloway, Town Manager and Alison Melnikova, Assistant Town Manager.

Dr. Bates opened the meeting and thanked those in attendance. He explained that Forest Stewards had been working on the proposals made in the Stewardship Plan which called for two treatments on Town owned land. One was for the White Pine plantations within the watershed and the other was in the Rocky Branch tract which is outside of the watershed. The organization has been focusing on the White Pine Plantation and is now at the point of making a recommendation to the Town for treatments of approximately 50 acres in these areas.

Dr. Bates and Rob Lamb discussed the work that is being proposed, noting that there are two different types of areas. One type involves smaller, white pines which are denser, and there is very little undergrowth and virtually no new hardwood trees growing beneath the pines. This is basically because there is not adequate light to encourage trees to grow. In this area, there would be a proposal to remove about 50 percent of the trees, opening up the area to allow the small hardwoods to grow into mature trees. In the second area, the white pines are larger, more mature trees and spaced further apart. Under these, there are hardwoods starting to grow, but they are small. As these are mature trees, the proposal for this area involves removing most of the large pines, bringing in sufficient light to allow the small hardwoods to grow to maturity.

There was discussion on how to proceed from this point. Those present agreed that the Town Board needs to be kept apprised of the proposal and needs to be comfortable with it. Dave Dudek pointed out that the Board will want to understand the process that is being used and be comfortable that someone will be on the ground keeping a close eye on the work of those hired to do timbering. Galloway noted that citizens will ask Board members questions about what is going on at the watershed, and we need to be sure that they have the information at hand to answer any questions they are asked. He went on to say that when the proposal is submitted to the Town Board, he would hope that Committee members will be on hand in support. Dudek expressed his feeling that the Town Board appointed the Watershed Committee to study the issues and make recommendations about the work to be done in the watershed.

It was noted that there were several members absent, and those in attendance agreed that the Committee should meet again in December to discuss the proposal further. The hope would be that the proposal could then be presented to the Town Board in January, 2010. Alison Melnikova will check with the Committee members to try and arrive at a date that will be suitable for all the members to meet.

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Rob Lamb noted that another issue that will need to be addressed will be on invasive species. He pointed out that in some places in the watershed, there are already patches of multi-floral rose. It is likely that once there is more light brought into some sections, it will encourage the growth of invasive species like the multi-floral rose, bittersweet and possibly kudzu. Lamb and Bates suggested that a discussion should take place on what process should be used to try and control these species. In some cases, they noted, chemicals would be the most beneficial, but with the land surrounding the water reservoir, there would be concerns about the impact on the water supply. Galloway suggested that a conversation needs to take place with the Division of Environment and Natural Resources on what treatments they will allow to be used in the watershed to control the invasive species. Lamb indicated that he would talk with Kyle Cook, Water Superintendent, and find out with whom he should talk with at DENR.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

A. Lee Galloway, Town Manager