

Creating a Forest Management Plan

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Project Canopy recently awarded the Town of Raymond a grant to pay part of the cost of creating a forest management plan for two Town owned forest properties. Funding is provided by the federal government, via the Maine Forest Service Project Canopy program. One property is located on the Egypt Road and contains a total of eighty-three acres. The second property is located at the end of Patricia Drive and occupies one hundred-forty acres.

Approximately seventeen acres of the Patricia Drive property is open, containing the former dump site, two buildings and a cell tower. The remaining acreage is forested. Known as the "Files lot," the Egypt Road property was purchased by the Town of Raymond in 2006 for \$100,00.00, \$40,000.00 coming from the Conservation Commission. Approximately seven acres of it is non-forested and contains a former dumpsite, which was abandoned to that use in the late 1980's. The remaining acreage appears to be forested with limited areas of wetland.

Most of the information about these properties will be gathered on-site. Among other things, the plan will contain an inventory of timber and its respective value, which means I must take a sample of the whole population on each property. Producing a timber inventory requires a timber cruise, which facilities knowledge of where the property lines are and what to look for as evidence of a boundary line.

I have visited both properties on different occasions, and have found some lines and corners. Stone walls, barbed wire, and blazed /painted lines can be found. In some areas, no lines are evident. In other areas, decaying flagging is present , which may or may not be a boundary line. On the corner where Raymond, Windham, and Gray meet, a granite monument exists with the letters "R" and "W" inscribed into it. All other corners can be found using pipes or re-rod, some of which have surveyor caps.

In addition, I have researched survey maps and deeds for the subject properties and some adjacent properties. It happens that I needed to find some of these property lines while I was working for clients with abutting properties.

More information will be available in the near future as I continue to develop and execute this forest management plan.

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