

## Forest Practices Advisory Board

June 29, 2021

Attendees: Chris M, Ian Branson, Dr. Mark Ashton, Patrick Comins (left meeting at 9:50), Barbara Kelly, Joan Nichols, Tom Degnan, Jr.

Guests: Doug Emmerthal (DEEP Forestry (joined at 10:17)), Nick Zito (DEEP Forestry), Eric Hammerling (CFPA), Alison Rau (DEEP Legal), Sheila Hoefle (DEEP Forestry – recorder)

Absent: Brennan Sheahan, Bruce Spaman

Chris thanked all members and guests for participating in the virtual meeting.

Vote to Approve minutes from the February 25, 2021 Meeting – Suggestion made to remove the last sentence under #4. Ian made a motion to approve amended minutes, Joan seconded the motion. One abstention.

The Board briefly discussed the severe gypsy moth defoliation in northwest Connecticut as well as beech leaf disease in southwest Connecticut.

FBAP Vacancies – One vacancy remains for the Board. A member of the general public appointed by the House Minority Leader. Recommendations for a candidate can be sent to Chris. Recognizing that diversifying the Board membership should be considered when recommending candidates. An individual who is involved in urban forestry may be considered. Future locations for Board meetings are CT Forest & Park Assoc or the CT Farm Bureau as well as hybrid options.

CT Forest Action Plan Update – USDA Forest Service has approved [CT Forest Action Plan](#). Landscape Scale Restoration Grants application period will be announced later this summer with funding available from the USDA Forest Service.

2021 Legislative Session Outcomes – [HB-6501](#) AN ACT CONCERNING THE STREAMLINING OF CERTAIN PROGRAMS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. to make minor and technical revisions to various programmatic statutes of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection in an effort to streamline aspects of such programs. Includes improvements to Forest Protection use of CIFIC members for Northeast Forest Fire Compact fires and addresses longstanding inter compact liability issues did not get to final vote and will be introduced again next year. Additionally, updates to the Timber Harvest Revolving Fund (THRF) statute may be

requested in the 2022 Legislative session to allow for revenue from all forest products to be deposited to the THRF. Eric shared that [HB6498](#) AN ACT CONCERNING THE SITING OF CERTAIN SOLAR FACILITIES ON FARMLANDS AND CORE FORESTS only went as far as a public hearing. A bill authorizing municipalities of any size to seize ATVs used illegally was passed as part of a Dept of Transportation bill. [SB924](#) AN ACT CONCERNING THE STAFFING AND RESOURCES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION passed that will require a report by DEEP that provides an accounting of agency staffing position paid for from the revenues of the Passport to the Parks account and that assesses the effect of impeding agency staff retirements on the viability and efficacy of current and planned agency programs and responsibilities. The Connecticut Audubon Society is working as part of a coalition to ban chlorpyrifos. [SB837](#) AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF PERFLUOROALKYL OR POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES IN CLASS B FIREFIGHTING FOAM has been enacted as [Public Act 21-191](#). The Farm Bureau strongly opposed [HB 6688](#) AN ACT CONCERNING A HIGHWAY USE FEE has been enacted as [Public Act 21-177](#) and will impact the forest products industry as increased trucking costs will be passed along through stumpage prices.

Nationally [SB1248](#) TO ESTABLISH AN OUTDOOR RESTORATION FUND FOR RESTORATION AND RESILIENCE PROJECTS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES bill was introduced and could impact CT.

The Division of Forestry will begin collecting data on PA490 lands that will now include aquaculture acres. It is expected that there will be a jump in the total acres of property enrolled in PA490.

DEEP and CFPA are in the final steps of having a fully executed Project Agreement that will allow CFPA to gather input that will be needed from stakeholders to craft a No Net Loss of Forests for Connecticut.

Enforcement Actions - Riendeaus Consent Order- some trouble with getting oversight paperwork issued on time. Riendeau's were issued a Notification of Non-Compliance regarding the matter. They are working with their Forester to address the issue.

Grillo Services – Bethlehem. Grillo Services is being investigated for possible FPA violations related to clearing of forest without Land Use Change approval from the Town. DEEP Legal team investigating if landowner can be held liable for “contracting or engaging”

Exams – Two additional forester exams were scheduled this year and were made available to new DEEP Forestry staff as well as the general public. Nick has received reports that the revised Section 4 of the Forester exam is more difficult than it was in the past. There has been an increase in the number of CT licensed arborists that are applying for the Forester exam.

Presentation – Economic contributions to the CT's forest product industry. Doug shared the Connecticut and regional fact sheets and full report. There is excitement about the opportunity to raise the awareness of the CT forest products industry.

- Forest Products Industries' Economic Contributions: Connecticut: [full report](#), [fact sheet](#)
- Forest Products Industries' Economic Contributions in the Northeast and Midwest Area – 2017: [full report](#), [fact sheet](#)

[Economic Impacts of Connecticut Agricultural Industry](#) information is available through a publication by UConn. Joan shared the [Cost of Community Services Studies](#) from the Farmland Information Center.

Division of Forestry Staffing – Fran Trafidlo, western Connecticut State Lands Forester has retired; authorization to refill the position has approval through OPM. Kevin Grady, Forest Protection Forester, retired and has returned as a temporary worker retiree for about 20 hours a week. Kevin’s primary focus will be on daily fire weather and entering qualification for CT Interstate Fire Crew for national response.

General Information:

Timpro held their annual meeting at Lockwood Farm and had about 60 participants. Doug and Nick presented. Joan would like to discuss possibility of using a quiz in the Northern Logger Magazine for CT Forest Practitioner CEUs.

Chris and Andrea Urbano presented about PA490 at the Connecticut Association of Assessing Officers meeting. Andrea conducted PA490 training for Foresters in June.

Tom Degan contributed an article on the role of a Utility Forester to Forestry Source, a publication of the Society of American Foresters.

The meeting was called to a close at 10:53 am. Information about next meeting to be distributed this fall.

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### News Release

Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

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Hartford, CT 06106

06/18/2021

## USDA Forest Service Approves Connecticut's 2020 Forest Action Plan

### 10-Year Strategic Document Will Guide State's Forest Management Actions Over Next Decade

(HARTFORD)—The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) recently received official approval from the USDA Forest Service of Connecticut's 2020 Forest Action Plan, a ten-year strategic document designed to guide policies, priorities, and actions to conserve Connecticut's forest resources across multiple landscapes from urban and suburban, to rural.

Approval of Connecticut's Forest Action Plan is the result of a two-year collaborative effort with many partners and stakeholders. The Connecticut Forest Action Plan analyzes current conditions and trends of Connecticut's trees and forests and provides strategies and action steps to best plan for the future of the forested landscape. The Action Plan takes into consideration goals and strategies of Connecticut's **Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan**

(<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Outdoor-Recreation/SCORP>), **Wildlife Action Plan**

(<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Wildlife/CT-Wildlife-Action-Plan/Connecticut-Wildlife-Action-Plan>),

**Green Plan** (<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Open-Space/The-Green-Plan>) and is complimentary to

**Governors Council on Climate Change** (<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Climate-Change/GC3/Governors-Council-on-Climate-Change>)(GC3) recommendations.

Required under the US Farm Bill, all US states and territories are obligated to have a forest action plan to receive federal aid through USDA Forest Service's State and Private Forestry programs which support private woodland owner stewardship, urban and community forestry, and assistance to rural fire departments. Having a robust Forest Action Plan also allows Connecticut's forest conservation partners to compete regionally for additional grants designed to address priorities and implement strategies identified within the Action Plan.

"This is the culmination of a lot of hard work, research and input by the staff of DEEP's Forestry Division, as well as many partners and stakeholders, and members of the public," DEEP Forestry Division Director Chris Martin said. "We appreciate the USDA Forest Service's acceptance of Connecticut's 2020 Forest Action Plan, and look forward to utilizing it as our guiding document for managing the state's forests over the next decade."

Forest Action Plans assess the condition of trees and forests, regardless of ownership, and develop strategies to: conserve working forest landscapes, protect forests from harm, and enhance public benefits from trees and forests. They offer practical and comprehensive roadmaps for investing federal, state, local, and private resources where they can be most effective in achieving state and national forest conservation goals. For more information on Connecticut's Forest Action Plan go to: **CT Forest Action Plan** (<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Forestry/CT-Forest-Action-Plan>).

# Forest Management In Connecticut



Two people per  
acre of forest



Dominated by  
oaks and maples



Most urban tree  
cover in the nation



Nearly 72% is  
privately-owned

[portal.ct.gov/DEEP-FAP](http://portal.ct.gov/DEEP-FAP)

More at: [portal.ct.gov/deep](http://portal.ct.gov/deep) (<https://portal.ct.gov/deep>) | Follow on Facebook at [CTDEEP](https://www.facebook.com/CTDEEP) (<https://www.facebook.com/CTDEEP>) | Follow on Twitter @[CTDEEPNews](https://twitter.com/ctdeepnews) (<https://twitter.com/ctdeepnews>)

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