

**Dear Mayor Macksey and Public Services
Commissioner Timothy Lescarbeau 9.17.24**

tlescarbeau@northadams-ma.gov.

MayorMacksey@northadams-ma.gov

Re: The Friends of Notch Reservoir and Bellows Pipe Trail request additional data and answers to the questions from the planners of the proposed harvest plan.

Context: Beyond questionable intention, the most potentially impactful aspect of the, as yet only proposed project, lies in its implementation. That implementation is controlled and guided by a yet to be made available Harvest Cut Plan and its related documents and contract forms. We are told it has not been issued or shared with the City yet. As owners, the City has the right, with City Counsel, to review and solicit citizen input all of these proposed plan's documents.

Without being limited, we have the following specific requests at this time, lettered A through N.

A) We request that the city obtain the latest and final copies of the forester's **Harvest Cut Plan**, with biding and related specifications and documentation forms. Additionally, we with the city are granted thirty days to have it professionally and legally reviewed.

B) We request the report that shows sales volume accurately calculated by tree species.

C) We request the approximate number of trucks that will need access to our Town roads. Will the trucking be guaranteed not

exceed our roughly estimated 120 trucks?

D) On mapped stands 2 and 3 and other stands, we wish to know in scaled plan location where the proposed patch openings are located. We request that accurate mapping be suitable for field checking is provided.

E) We wish to know the approximate total estimated harvest value of the seventy acres and the fiscal components that comprise that total value?

F) We request the calculated/estimated volume per acre of the harvest?

G) We ask... Since tree planting is so vital to this plan....What is the total replacement planting cost as proposed and what is the three-year total cost to plant, protect, including watering and monitoring? Who will do and guarantee that work?

H) We wish to have our nonprofessional estimate confirmed for the number of logging truck trips for saw logs, firewood, and pulp wood. How many truck trips for each?

I) We request an approximate breakdown of the allocation of timber value to each of the agents, entities, and parties, involved or associated with executing this plan.

J) We request a detailed enumeration of all funds coming to this project via grants, City contributions gifts (if any), and in-kind

services.

K) We request to have confirmed what monetary total the city will receive and an explanation for why it is likely an inconsequential \$40,000 as already presented when an imagined proposed harvest of significantly greater value.

L) We request to know who gets final authority and will review bids and have the right to award the bid. In our minds it must be to the bidder that protects best the interests of the city not necessarily is the highest bidder.

M) North Adams has hired Gary Gouldrup. We request a copy of the signed contract for his services and additionally how he is fully paid for his services. Are there supplemental commissions involved?

N) We need to see the raw inventory data of the forest. The city must have a copy?

We would like to note that, should a harvest plan go forward, there is an opportunity to obtain and realize a "much better" harvest outcome with smaller equipment and more specialized equipment.... (gangle rather than fixed head cutters articulated machines of small size) etc. Additionally, by reducing the removal of any separated more remote high value tree harvest because of non-counted cutting needed to get to those trees, again

would reduce the stocking below B level. Also, by dropping and leaving dead and dying trees that are more remote we reduce impact and increase carbon.

The City and its caring citizens have the right and can say this is how it is going to get done, local, small, specialized equipment and distribution as desired. A small paced, slow project will be better and substantially less risk. We realize this is a complex subject and hard to parse, as citizens we wish to assist and produce the best outcome. Slow steady and carefully is the way to achieve that intent and with trusted expert review where none of us qualify. 'We need second opinion on this proposal.'

Walter Cudnohufsky

Friends of Notch Reservoir and Bellows Pipe Trail