

WESTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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MEMORANDUM

TO: BOARD OF SELECTMEN
CC: LAND'S SAKE
FROM: WESTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
SUBJECT: PROPOSED FORESTRY PROGRAM AT CASES ESTATES
DATE: OCTOBER 26, 2018

The Weston Conservation Commission (WCC) respectfully requests the Board of Selectmen allow Land's Sake (LS) to conduct forest management on a portion of the Municipal Purposes land at the Case Estates.

For the last 20 years, the Weston Conservation Commission has entered into an annual contract with Land's Sake to cut fire wood and saw logs on Weston Conservation Land. By selective forest cutting and careful management, the town's forests will ultimately be more productive and will provide diverse wildlife habitat. Previous cutting areas include Highland Forest, Jericho Town Forest, Sears Land and Ogilvie Town Forest.

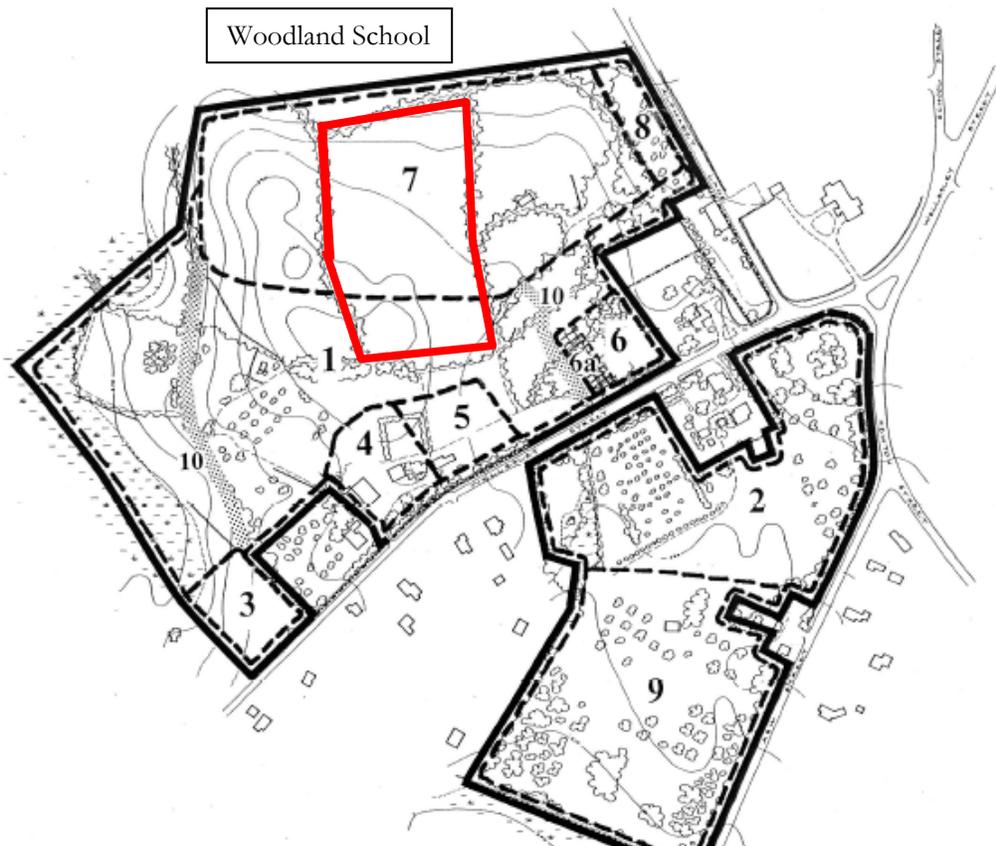
This winter, LS proposes to cut a portion of Parcel 7 on the Case Estates (see sketch on Page 2). This portion of the Case Estates land abuts Woodland School and is owned by the Board of Selectmen (Municipal Purposes Land). It is comprised mostly by White Pine with a scattered mix of deciduous trees, mostly oak. The proposed thinning is an extension of the work approved by the BOS last year, and carried out last winter.

With the consent of the Board of Selectmen, LS and Brian Donahue (Associate Conservation Commission member) will mark the trees for cutting. LS will file a Forest Cutting Plan with the district state forester (as required by law) who inspects and approves the harvest. Felling is done by safe, low-impact methods. Along the northern border with School land, Lands Sake will leave a 50-foot buffer where no trees are cut, and an additional 50-foot buffer in which no trees will be marked that would need to be felled into the first buffer. Firewood is stacked in the woods to season, pine will either be milled on site with a band sawmill, or trucked away. Slash from the logging is cut below two feet.

LS proposes to cut approximately 50 cords of firewood over 2 years. This would remove about one-quarter to one-third of the trees -- cutting the lowest quality trees to allow the rest to grow. The firewood would be sold to Weston Residents and the pine timber is expected to be used to construct a new LS farm stand at the 40-acre field.

LS would use this opportunity to showcase our forestry management to the town with a focus on the elementary schools. In conjunction with the forestry project, Brandeis University and Harvard Forest (under the direction of Brian Donahue) may conduct an assessment of state of infestation of "White Pine Needle Drop" fungus in this plot.

On October 23, 2018, The WCC voted to support Land's Sakes' request. Therefore, the WCC requests that the Board of Selectmen allow LS to conduct the above referenced forest management. WCC can oversee the work which will be part of LS's annual Forestry Contract.



— Proposed Forest Management Area on Parcel 7



Example of forest composition found on Parcel 7 of the Case Estates Property (municipal purposes land)