

# Early Management Plan for Craftsbury's Town Forests

## Select Board Request for State Designation as a Municipal Forest

Craftsbury, Vermont  
Jan 31 19 72

Department of Forests and Parks  
Montpelier  
Vermont

Gentlemen:

We, the undersigned selectmen of the Town of Craftsbury, Vermont, wish to designate the following land which we own as a municipal forest in accordance with Sections 7088 to 7091 inclusive of the Vermont Statutes as amended.

Description:

Three parcels of property located in the Craftsbury Town Records as follows:

Webster Land - 75 acres - Book 31, Page 160  
Clapper Land - 40 acres, Book 30, Page 474A  
Coburn Carter Land - 45 acres - Book 24, Page 321

A better description will follow.

Yours very truly,

Joseph W. Houston  
Henry A. Young  
Edmund F. Williams

Selectmen  
of the  
Town of

APPROVED:

P. Bradford Walker

1/22/74  
Date

Craftsbury Town Forest History

Correspondence from Vermont State Municipal Forester

Central Vermont District  
RD 1  
Morrisville, Vermont 05661

January 16, 1974

Mr. Norman Hudson  
Chief, Environmental Services  
Department of Forests & Parks  
Montpelier, Vermont 05602

Dear Norm:

Enclosed are classification forms signed by the Craftsbury Selectmen 2 years ago. They were never sent to Montpelier because of a lack of a description.

I got the book and page numbers of the three separate lots from Mr. Goodwin the town clerk and hope to have a better description after the land is classified.

The Town of Craftsbury has a committee on municipal forests appointed by the selectmen. I knew nothing about this committee until just recently and have written the members to set up a meeting. One of the members, a Mr. James Moffatt, knows the boundaries of all three lots.

In addition to these 160 acres of town land, Craftsbury Academy, a public school, has 210 acres of forest land. One of these parcels which is an original 160 acre town lot has been owned by the Academy since 1868. This might be the oldest town owned forest in Vermont.

I would like to get the Academy land classified in the future. The Academy is a corporation managed by a Board of Trustees, with whom I will plan to meet soon.

I thought you might be interested in these happenings and also the possible addition of more municipal forest land.

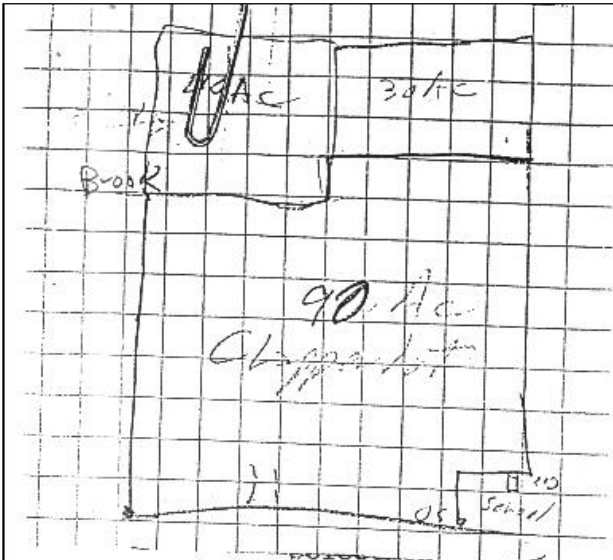
Yours truly,

J. M. Green  
Municipal Forester

JHG:bs

Craftsbury Town Forest History

Municipal Forest Designation Letter



January 23, 1974

Town of Craftsbury  
Craftsbury, Vermont

Gentlemen:

It gives me great pleasure to acknowledge approval of your application for certification of some 160 acres of land as a Municipal Forest for the Town of Craftsbury. I am returning your copy of the application for your files.

Our Municipal Forester, Mike Green, will work closely with you in developing multiple use forest management plans for this tract. Please feel free to call upon him at any time. He can be reached at Morrisville, Vermont.

Sincerely,

NORMAN W. HUDSON  
Chief of Environmental  
Services

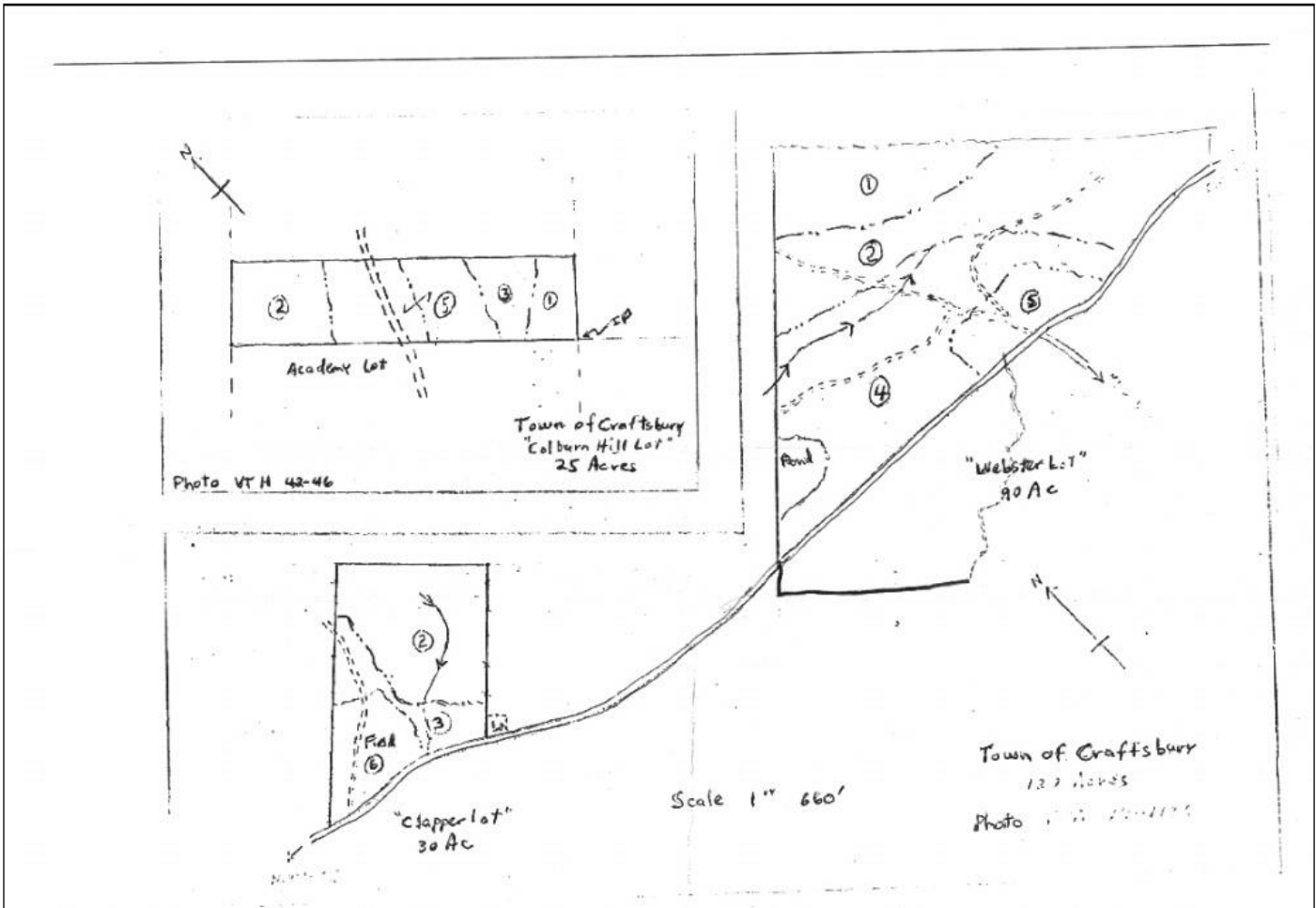
NWH:klg

cc: Mike Green

# Craftsbury Town Forest History

## Management Plan Map

Shows the Coburn Hill lot and Webster and Blueberry Lots (aka "Clapper Lot") on Hatch Brook. The 60 acres linking the two Hatch Brook parcels (sometimes referred to as the Clapper-Baker lot) were obtained through a land trade in 1994.



# Craftsbury Town Forest History

## CRAFTSBURY MUNICIPAL FOREST FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Town of Craftsbury Municipal Forest consists of three separate parcels with a total of 145 acres. The three separate parcels are the Colburn Hill, Clapper and Webster lots and consist of 25 acres, 30 acres, and 90 acres respectively.

The Clapper and Webster lots are found along the same town road on the southeastern portion often within 1800' of one another. The Colburn Hill lot is located in the northwest section of town just north of Craftsbury Academy land on an old town road.

The elevation above sea level for all three lots range from 1300' to 1500'. The slope and drainage is to the southeast, into the Wild Branch Lamville River.

### Forest Types

The municipal land is over 95% forested with only 7 acres of open field. The forest types range from hardwood to softwood with mixtures of both along with plantation of softwood. Almost the entire forest has been heavily cut over in the past or has grown up from former pasture land.

A breakdown of the forest types is as follows:

#### Area #1 - Northern Hardwood - 16 Acres

This area consists of hardwood species such as sugar and red maple, beech, yellow and white birch with other scattered hardwoods. The size ranges from pole to marginal sawlog 4-12 inches dbh (diameter breast height). A stand of this size would not support a log job at this time but could use timber stand improvement work to thin out the inferior trees. This improvement work could be a good source of firewood.

#### Area #2 - Mixed Wood - 51 Acres

This area is the catchall for all combinations of mixed hardwood and softwood. The species consist of maple, spruce, birch, balsam fir and many others. The size is mostly pole with scattered marginal sawlogs. This area is also a good source of firewood through timber stand improvement. Some areas of softwood could be cut for pulpwood on a marked tree basis.

#### Area #3 - Former Pasture - 10 Acres

This area is made up of old pastureland that reverted back to forest with species such as red maple, gray and white birch, black cherry, balsam fir and red spruce - similar to mixed wood but smaller in size. TSI is also needed here but at the lowest priority because of the lack of quality species.

# Craftsbury Town Forest History

Page 2  
Craftsbury Municipal Forest

## Area #4 - Northern Softwood - 40 Acres

This area is mostly red spruce and balsam fir along with scattered white pine and tamarack from pole to marginal sawlog size. Some sections could use a pulpwood cut along with marginal sawlogs - only on a marked tree basis. The purpose of the cut would be to remove balsam fir to encourage the spruce and pine.

## Area #5 - Plantation - 18 Acres

The plantations consist of white pine, red and white spruce and are in need of clearing out competing hardwoods especially on Colburn Hill. Also pruning could be done on selected crop trees.

## Area #6 - Abandoned Field

This area located on the "Clapper Lot" should be mown by a brushhog to keep down brush or planted to a coniferous species such as white pine. It should not be left to grow into brushland.

The forest land is mostly in need of improvement work along with a possible pulpwood cut in certain areas. The need for firewood might be an incentive to get some of this work done.

## Recreation & Wildlife

There are existing trails and woods roads through these areas. Snow machines utilize these town roads that border the forest lands. A permanent trail system could be established to better utilize the forest land.

All the forest land along with the streams and beaver pond are sources of wildlife habitat. Forest practice should emphasize wildlife habitat preservation such as no cutting near streambeds or the creation of forest edge by patch clearcuts of one acre in size.

John M. Green  
Municipal Forester  
July 1974