

From: [Susan Och](#)
To: [Leland Clerk](#)
Subject: Fwd: Provemont Pond Trail
Date: Thursday, January 07, 2021 3:49:05 PM
Attachments: [Leeland Township PAC.docx](#)
[Leeland township proposal \(1\).docx](#)
[Forester Referrals October 2020.pdf](#)
[Hiring a Consultant Forester.pdf](#)

We should post Kama's letter on the public meeting documents, also the MSU PDF about hiring a consulting forester.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kama Ross** <kama.ross@macd.org>
Date: Thu, Dec 10, 2020 at 3:45 PM
Subject: Re: Provemont Pond Trail
To: Molly Steck <msteck@leelanau.gov>, <lelandoch@gmail.com>

Great hiking the Provemont Pond Recreation Area with both of you on Monday. I would very much enjoy being a part of the project going forward, hopefully with a good selective harvest but if that doesn't happen, just as the District Forester offering my technical assistance in any way that furthers your project. I think it is a lovely property with so much potential. Still probably won't hop on a bike though!

Here is a summary of what we discussed as forest management options for your group and the township to consider as you proceed. My role as the District Forester is to educate and help landowners connect with the most reputable local natural resource professional that can help you achieve your stewardship goals. I like to think I can keep the ball rolling forward and help different groups speak the same language so that all feel successful.

Doing a selective harvest before you build trails and open the area to more recreational use is really a good idea. The amount of wood already laying on the forest floor, all the ash still to go down, and the beech to follow is a huge amount of work for a township staff person or a volunteer crew. Removing low quality, defective trees that are going to be hazards but can be sold and utilized is proper forest management. Removing some biologically and financially mature trees that will help make the sale attractive to the logger is part of what we have to do. Working closely with the forester will make sure that decisions are made that will help keep the forest healthy and vigorously growing, concentrating the available space, water and light on trees with the best chance to survive and be healthy. Looking at enhancing species diversity within the forest, possibly planting trees and shrubs in areas that need help, and even possibly wild flowers or perennial native plants in the understory would all be cool management practices to implement as you go forward. Creating trails from logging activities or the parking area that might be the landing the loggers use, could also benefit your project.

I've attached the proposal/contract that Bryan Watters, Procurement Forester with Silver Leaf Sawmill (he was employed in a similar position at the time with Northwest Hardwoods, same services offered just the wood goes to a different sawmill). Again, I did ask Bryan if he was still interested in working with the township on the sale and he is. I can offer many Leelanau County forest landowners that have worked with Bryan recently for excellent references (Judy Frederick right in Leland and others). Volumes/values will have changed since he did this in 2016, but he did spend quite a bit of time out there and so I would strongly encourage you to consider him. But, you may want to reach out to Zach Crawford, the new Procurement Forester with Deerings. Zach is a competent forester and Deerings can do good harvesting with his leadership. Lynn Bakker is a Consultant Forester in SB and would be a good person to administer a sale though she would end up selling the timber through a competitive bid system that Bryan or Zach might end up cutting anyway. She may or may not charge much for her services since she is such an amazing community collaborator. Last person that might be interested in Daniel Schillinger, Consultant in TC, and he served as the District Forester before me. He is very busy but has worked with other townships on similar projects and did a timber sale at Myles Kimmerly Park for the county, though Deerings cut it. He would definitely charge for his services, which could be as high as 15% of the timber sale profits. Again, I know income is not your first priority and all of these foresters would be good at listening to your objectives and working closely with your

team and the loggers to achieve the outcomes you are looking for. Also attached is the contact information for these foresters. I also attached a description of the different types of foresters you could work with.

Please let them know that I was out with you and referred you. Now is a good time to connect with these professionals. Timber sale contracts sometimes happen right away, but matching the right logging operation to your project might take time and the best loggers are the busiest! Please let me know how things progress and if I can assist further. Stay safe!

Kama Ross

Kama Ross, District Forester
Leelanau, Grand Traverse and Benzie Conservation Districts
kama.ross@macd.org
231-256-9783



“There are two spiritual dangers in not owning a farm. One is the danger of supposing that breakfast comes from the grocery, and the other that heat comes from the furnace.” **Good Oak, Aldo Leopold**

On Thu, Dec 3, 2020 at 9:07 AM Molly Steck <msteck@leelanau.gov> wrote:

Yes! We will see you there.

From: Kama Ross <kama.ross@macd.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 2, 2020 5:10 PM
To: Molly Steck <msteck@leelanau.gov>
Subject: Re: Provemont Pond Trail

Works for me - meet you at the entrance off French Road, NW corner, near the red pine plantation? My cell is 231-920-4055.

Kama Ross

Kama Ross, District Forester
Leelanau, Grand Traverse and Benzie Conservation Districts
kama.ross@macd.org
231-256-9783

□

“There are two spiritual dangers in not owning a farm. One is the danger of supposing that breakfast comes from the grocery, and the other that heat comes from the furnace.” **Good Oak, Aldo Leopold**

On Wed, Dec 2, 2020 at 4:22 PM Molly Steck <msteck@leelanau.gov> wrote:

Agree!

How does next Monday, 12/7, at 1:00 sound?

From: Kama Ross <kama.ross@macd.org>
Sent: Wednesday, December 2, 2020 2:05 PM
To: Molly Steck <msteck@leelanau.gov>
Subject: Re: Provemont Pond Trail

I think hiking the property with you and Susan would be a great next step. We can all wear masks and social distance...these days are great for hiking safely. My schedule is pretty flexible and I can work around both of your work schedules. The 10 day forecast is pretty mild - let's hike!

Kama Ross

Kama Ross, District Forester

Leelanau, Grand Traverse and Benzie Conservation Districts

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□

“There are two spiritual dangers in not owning a farm. One is the danger of supposing that breakfast comes from the grocery, and the other that heat comes from the furnace.” **Good Oak, Aldo Leopold**

On Wed, Dec 2, 2020 at 12:32 PM Molly Steck <msteck@leelanau.gov> wrote:

Hi Kama – your name came up at our Leland twp Parks & Rec meeting last night. I am wondering if we should set up a time where you, Susan Och, and myself can walk Provemont and talk about possible forest improvements? Or if it would be easier, due to the time of year and possible cruddy weather, for you to join our next meeting on January 5?

Let me know your thoughts – we are interested in learning more!

Molly

From: Kama Ross <kama.ross@macd.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2020 8:45 AM
To: Molly Steck <msteck@co.leelanau.mi.us>
Subject: Provemont Pond Trail

Such good news about the bike trail project - what great addition to the Lake Leelanau area. Probably when Cal Little was Leland Twp. Supervisor, I met with several Procurement Foresters to look at the townships interest in sustainably logging the property. I had a few bites but then nothing went forward (can't remember what the details were). Just wondering if your group would be interested in looking at a selective harvest in the northern hardwoods and possibly thinning the red pine before you put in the trail? Cleaning up the lower quality stems would generate some funds for trail development, rid the park of current hazard trees and perhaps help trail development start. Not an easy harvest but done correctly, with the right forester/logger, could be a positive move.

I believe a landing area was lacking and of course, visitors would need a parking area. Just thinking that it would be similar to Palmer Woods, and the Leelanau Conservancy's management of that before the trail went in. They worked with Richard Cooper/Paul Gerhart now and I believe they could answer some of your questions or I would be happy to meet with members of your group on site to look at the possibility.

Good forestry practices, like thinning out the lower quality stems in a sustainable, timber stand improvement, leaves the woods in a healthier, more vigorously growing condition so that recreation can happen for 10-15 years. Then perhaps another light harvest to continue to remove biologically and financially mature trees along with those that are declining and hazardous. We could still leave a lot of large, diverse trees for a safe and beautiful bike trail.

My services are offered at no charge and my role is to educate landowners about being more active forestland stewards and then connect you with the qualified professionals providing forestry services in the area. Let me know if you think the group would be at all interested in learning more.

Kama Ross

Kama Ross, District Forester

Leelanau, Grand Traverse and Benzie Conservation Districts

kama.ross@macd.org

231-256-9783



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Susan Och
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