



# State of New Hampshire

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December 3, 2018

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu  
and the Honorable Council  
State House  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

## **REQUESTED ACTION**

In accordance with RSA 4:8, authorize the Department of Administrative Services to accept two Christmas trees to be placed at the Bridges House on Mountain Road and at the State House in Concord, NH. The trees are being donated by the Society for the Protection of NH Forests Christmas Tree Farm at The Rocks in Bethlehem, NH. The value of this donation is approximately \$315.00.

## **EXPLANATION**

Each year it has become an annual tradition for members of the New Hampshire Christmas Tree industry, organized by the NH Christmas Tree Promotion Board to donate trees to the State to decorate the State House Governor and Council Chambers and the Bridges House. The purpose of the New Hampshire Christmas Tree Promotion Board is to promote and support the New Hampshire Christmas Tree products industry through the implementation of effective programs and activities to enhance awareness of the industry, increase sales and utilization of real Christmas and associated products, and further the interests of the Christmas tree growers of New Hampshire.

This year, the trees come from the Society for the Protection of NH Forests Christmas Tree Farm at the Rocks in Bethlehem. The 1,400 acre Rocks Estate was gifted to the Forest Society 1978 by the family of original owners, International Harvester Co-founder John Glessner and his wife Frances, who acquired the property in 1882 for a summer home. When giving the farm to the Forest Society the family made the stipulation that a crop always be maintained in the fields. That crop for more than 30 years has been Christmas trees and today there are more than 40,000 trees grown on the farm. The tree production is part of the Forest Society's commitment to preserving open space, providing wildlife habitat and conservation education.

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Christmas trees are available for families to cut their own, or select from precut trees while enjoying the holiday ambience, including horse drawn hayrides, food, caroling and more. Approximately 5,000 - 6,000 trees are cut and sold from the farm each year via a combination of retail and wholesale sales.

Respectfully submitted,



Charles M. Arlinghaus  
Commissioner