



# **In Russell PEOPLE CAN'T SEE THE FORESTER FOR THE TREES**

**D**o you know Bill Hull? That is, do you know anything about Bill beyond the fact that he's one of the people behind Russell Biomass and our plan to put a 50-megawatt wood-fired power plant on the site of the old Westfield River Paper Company mill? Most likely, you don't. Most people in and around Russell have no idea where Bill comes from or what he's about. That's no big surprise. Bill's a quiet guy by nature. But we think it's about time we offered you a chance to find out about Bill and Russell Biomass.

Bill Hull has been deeply committed to forestry since he was a teenager. He purchased his first woodlot, 12 acres of hardwoods, when he was 15 years old. He received a B.S. in forestry from the University of New Hampshire in 1965. He worked in forest management for a few years after graduation, then, following a one-year tour of duty with the U.S. Army in Vietnam, he founded Hull Forest Products in 1970. Today, as owner and CEO of Hull Forest Products, Bill oversees a company that manages more than 14,000 acres of woodland in Southern New England, 9,000 of which are located in and around Russell. Most Hull woodlands have been certified in Sustainable Forestry Practices by Smartwood, a program of the Rainforest Network.

There's more you should know about Bill and Hull Forest Products, however. Like the fact that in 2000, Bill put together a private/public partnership that permanently protected more than 8,000 acres of forest land from development. You should also know that that Hull Forest Products has been recognized by public and private environmental agencies and groups for its commitment to sustainable forestry. And that much of the Hull land, including nine miles of frontage on the Westfield River and its main feeder streams, has been marked as open to the public for hiking, fishing, hunting and other non-motorized outdoor recreational activities. Plus, Bill's children, Benjamin, Sam and Mary and son-in-law Mark, are part of Hull Forest Products. Mary, Mark and their daughter Nancy live in Russell. Bill has a long-term stake both in his business and in Russell and its surrounding communities. Throughout his career Bill has demonstrated a commitment to conserving our natural resources and protecting the environment. That's how he's run his business, and that's the philosophy he's bringing to the development of the power plant.

Does knowing more about Bill mean you should automatically embrace Russell Biomass and our plans? No. But we think you should at least know who we are and what we stand for before you form an opinion.

**Russell(Bio)Mass**

*Bringing some new energy to town.*