

Tunbridge Town Forest Committee – February 19, 2020, Town Office – minutes

Larry Mengedoht, David Kimball, Brenda Field, Gary Mullen, Dan ‘rudi’ Ruddell, guest Simon Bradford

Meeting to order at 7:10 pm

Simon in to discuss upgrade of his spring on the town forest in spring/summer 2020; he has deeded rights and ROW for maintenance. He sketched out rough work plans and details. The committee greatly appreciated him coming in to discuss, and Gary will relay info to the selectboard as well. The Town Forest Committee will be working to remove excess flagging (from previous dowsing expedition in 2015) and more clearly delineate wells and waterlines on the town forest lot, particularly ahead of any potential harvest work in their vicinity, per recommendations of forester David Paganelli and the 2011 management plan.

Brenda gave a brief overview of the very nice work done by logger Jim Welch in the past year on the Town Garage Lot. Ensuing discussion of use of some of the proceeds from the harvest to help relocate the access road (Committee will walk this in the spring to clarify details), and possibly begin creation of some infrastructure for further educational use of the Town Forest. Dave Kimball brought in a copy of an article and other info about a Town Forest in China, Maine, following up on an outstanding website for which he had shared a link with Committee members previously (<https://chinaschoolsforest.wixsite.com/website>).

Brenda also updated us on the Tunbridge Big Trees contest, which has now closed for entries and is in the process of following up on documenting the largest trees. Enthusiastic responses to this project!

Gary pointed out the warning for Town Meeting includes an item for setting up a Town Forest Fund for proceeds from harvests, in support of stewardship and use of the forest.

Discussion of continuing our research on water rights linked to the Town Forest. Brenda noted a hoped-for contact at the Law School has not panned out on this front, but she has received some encouraging information from a faculty member there. rudi will work on better compiling our research to date.

Meeting adjourned 7:45 pm.