

May 3, 2023

Town Forest Committee meeting minutes (currently not approved)

Meeting opened at 7:15 pm

Present: Dave Kimball, Brenda Field, Fred Pond, Gary Mullen, Dan 'rudi' Ruddell

Public: Betty Brown, Doug Giles, Eliza Minnucci, Jonathan Bicknell

Re-naming process for Town Garage Lot still in progress; Eliza and Brenda circulated a list of names that have come from general solicitations and requests at Series of walks/talks on forest, plus a number of recent additions from community members (Curtis, Rowell, Abenaki names); Izzy Provoncha's history walk noted as rich source of info and leads regarding a number of these

Eliza and Brenda request Town Forest Committee filter to a 'short list' that can then receive First Branch student input as well

Fred proposes an article in the Herald, especially so folks not on digital media get a chance to see the list; discussion that this has happened previously, but Fred offers to write a follow-up article with 'final list' and background

Go: choose name before Tunbridge Fair, hold naming ceremony early October; realistically this means July for choosing, Fred plans to write article ahead of this

Pavilion site work updates

Matt to follow up this spring with some further road tweaks, couple loads of stone in/around pavilion

Brenda has talked to Rodney about possible use of recycled culverts; some discussion of possible gullyng with concentrated flows, trade-offs against multiple waterbars and need for ongoing maintenance; further evaluation to come, ultimately make sure Matt is involved in decision as he has on-the-ground calls to make (particularly regarding current tilt of road contributing to erosion)

Gary has mulch hay if needed, we'd like to get it seeded; estimates from grant funding discussions indicate this could be >\$1000; explore further funding options?

Drew Lot logging update

Jimmy Welch officially done, David Paganelli has approved close-out. Wood remaining on landing will be processed for firewood, coordinating with local residents for processing and removal

Butternut earmarked for Town Forest use and brought to landing turned out to be hollow part way up, but good 8-10 ft; further discussion to be had on milling dimensions of slabs, and/or wood for carving

Culvert above Drew Lot landing is being undermined by water, needs to be addressed

Trails Committee collaboration (discussion led by Jonathan Bicknell)

4 years to get to this point, entering a new phase; what is the role of the Trails Committee, what if there are differences of opinion between Trails and Town Forest Committees? Need to show we can manage well what we have taken on if further trail expansion is envisioned

Drew Lot has significantly more issues; both committees hope to have another Drew Lot follow-up post-harvest with David Paganelli, who has been extremely helpful with experience and guidance on public use and management

REVIEW MANAGEMENT ON AT LEAST AN ANNUAL BASIS with joint committee meeting

Brenda will follow up with David Paganelli about another post-harvest walk on Drew Lot

Trails and Town Forest Committees will develop some guidelines for relationship between committees and general maintenance considerations, come back together to review

Jonathan notes Library has requested use of Town Garage Lot trail for 5K Thanksgiving walk/run; both committees are supportive

Gary will seek input from Rodney on what will make sense for Town Garage Lot parking area; hoping to hear back on Recreational Trails Program grant application in May (parking area delineation, kiosk, info kiosk near pavilion, trail signs, a couple benches, and a fire pit were in application)

Reviewed minutes from 1/24/2023 Town Forest Committee meeting for approval; minutes amended to indicate Gary was, in fact present (but was missing from list in minutes)

Amended minutes approved

Other comments

Eliza notes school spring field trips to Town Forest coming up; any permissions needed?

For now, Brenda Field will be point of contact (info on Town website, same as for Burn Permits) – no special permissions, but notification of use is helpful

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm

Approval of minutes from last meeting on Zoom (date?), as well as minutes from August 17

Adjourned 9:07