

Minutes of Town Forest Committee meeting April 16th, 2012
Story Memorial Hall

Members in attendance: Rudy Gross, Cathy Boedtker, Laura Stillson and Jim Lyall

Also present: Glenn Seward

Meeting called to order: 6:34 p.m.

Minutes for the meetings of February 4th and April 9th were approved.

Status of Act 250 application:

Glenn Seward said that we are still waiting for wildlife biologist, Forest Hammond to walk the area. There has been interest in including a small skills park and pump track but we will probably submit that as an amendment. Clarification: The Act250 permit includes trails on resort and TF land plus amenities (parking, kiosks etc.) The selectboard is the lead party in the over-all trail project. The TFC has responsibility for managing the trails in the Town Forest only - through it's advisory capacity to the selectboard.

Review of Existing Town Forest Policies:

Tentative wording (still a work in progress) and discussion:

Due to greater recreational use of the town forest, many uses that were previously allowed in the Town Forest are now inappropriate and therefore must be regulated or prohibited.

1. All motorized vehicles are prohibited beyond the existing parking lot. Fire/rescue and maintenance vehicles allowed.

Snowmobile use in the TF:

The Committee feels that we should not have a private trail on public property and are wrestling with the issue of whether snowmobiles should be on there or not. Cathy moved that the Selectboard contact the builders of the snowmobile bridge and deal with the private use of public property. seconded and approved.

2. All gates to remain closed

3. Harvesting of firewood prohibited

4. All new trails to be approved by TFC and forwarded to Selectboard for final approval.

5. Target practice with firearms or archery equipment prohibited.

6. Groups of 25 or more must give 24 hour notification to town office to obtain permission.

This policy was specifically moved, seconded and passed

7. Large gatherings (100 or more) must have a public assembly permit issued by the selectboard.

8. No fires permitted.

9. Carry In/Carry Out all trash.

10. No Camping allowed.

Parking lot:

The selectboard decided that reworking the existing parking lot is the best way to proceed. Glenn will do some tree cutting. Every TFC member, FD and FAST should have a key to gate. Ad hoc vehicular traffic will be blocked.

Trail maintenance job:

Includes all trails STAB and Bicentennial trail. Also keeping emergency access trails open.

Keep tools in town garage.

Trail usage and maps:

We will meet in two weeks to talk about trail users and map issues.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Lyall, TFC Secretary