

Minutes of Town Forest Committee meeting April 30th, 2012
Story Memorial Hall

Members in attendance: Rudy Gross, Dennis Lemire, Cathy Boedtke, Laura Stillson and Jim Lyall

Also present: Glenn Seward, Jeff Sykes, Tim Stone, Frank Brock, Bob Barrow, Dennis & Tammy Conley

Meeting called to order: 6:36 p.m.

Trail Usage

ATV use

Dennis moved that, pending Act 250 approval, we allow ATV use from Coaching Lane to Kimball Farm Rd, the Bicentennial Trail, the Quarry Trail, Coronary, Buck Dancer, Cloud Nine, Burke Loop, Stairway to Heaven (except for the wet portions at the top) and Paradise Hill.

Glenn asked that we not discuss this until we have a permit in hand. Public input - Why do we need an Act 250 permit to hike and bike on the land? Glenn said that a concerned citizen asked the Act 250 Commission if a permit was needed for trails in the town forest. Their interpretation was that we need one. Jeff Sykes said that he wanted to be sure that ATV use is considered because there are people who want it and there are examples of groups around the state organizing and getting use permission. More people should be informed of the economic benefits of bringing in ATVs and snowmobiles. Glenn and Cathy pointed out that most of these plus other bike trails don't have an Act 250 permit. Rudy and Glenn said that if there public demand for ATV's and snowmobiles in the TF we need to address it. Jim suggested that ATV and snowmobile groups make a proposal, and we can then act on it.

Snowmobile use

Dennis Conley said that he's had a trail there for 15 years, why can't he continue to use it. If anyone wants to use it, it's OK with him. Glenn: Uses have to be determined by TFC. Frank: consider access for snowmobiles to resort. Interim policy says there is one private snowmobile. The TFC felt that a private trail on public land didn't make sense. Frank: there was an access trail from FD through resort to TF and VAST system. Do do this again would also require permission from resort. Frank: consider some traffic control at the entrance to the TF. TFC has been having public meetings for a 1½ years asking what uses were desired. Jim and Jeff said there is a need to get people who are interested in ATVs and

snowmobiles involved. Glenn: If the trail is there it is everybody's, so we have to come up with a policy, but we are currently held up by the Act 250 process. Jim moved that the issue be tabled it was seconded and passed.

Horse use

Cathy: horse usage and maps should also be tabled until the permit is in hand. Jim: a small printing of maps is needed to keep people from getting lost - it may be a while before we have the permit and usage policies are adopted. Dennis: do we need an organization to represent the few horses, the few ATV's? Cathy: who will be responsible. Glenn: this is an evolving process - if more use, there will be issues and they can be addressed as they come up. Dennis moved that STAB print maps as needed. Jim said he would do some editing before a print run. The motion was passed.

Minutes for the meeting of March 19th and April 16th and were approved with corrections.

Signs: we need a stop sign for people coming out of the TF. Glenn - signs for further down Coaching Lane have been ordered. Dennis L.- The snowmobile bridge needs some sign that limits liability. Dennis C. - anyone is welcome to put rails on it and Rudy felt it was a good idea.

Jim listed signs needed, and showed the new posts and signs. Intersections would have trail names, intersection number, direction arrow, and red and yellow arrows pointing to the two parking areas. Also yellow signs with X XX and XXX indicating degree of caution. Signs to indicate permitted usage were discussed, but need final agreement on usage policy before they are made and installed. Existing legacy signs from many years ago need to be removed. Rudy suggested adding "West Windsor Town Forest" to the signage.

Dennis: Does STAB have permission for trails from Snowdance? Jim: W. Windsor has permission for trails from Snowdance and Orange Lakes (on a 30-day notice) and STAB and the town are close to having an agreement.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Lyall, TFC Secretary