

Minutes of Town Forest Committee meeting April 4, 2013, Story Memorial Hall

Members in attendance: Dennis Lemire, Laura Stillson, Rudy Gross, Cathy Boedtke and Jim Lyall  
Public Attendees: None  
Meeting called to order: 6:35 p.m.

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Dennis asked if we had heard anything from Glenn re: talking with OL. Dennis suggests that the head of VAST talk with OL. Rudy said he will talk to Glenn about it.

Act250 - the use of ATVs in the town forest and proposed snowmobile trail to Kimball Farm Road

Dennis had reported to SB that we passed a motion asking them to add ATV use to the Act 250. They were split on the issue, but made no action at this point. They will probably ask for more public input again before making a decision, even though we have had duly warned and well attended meetings about it. At this point it is up to the SB. Rudy said they need to be pushed.

Jim also wants to add some trails that were missing from the original and add some bridges where we currently ford streams. Rudy suggested adding a bridge on the Bicentennial between the falls. Cathy said that we should add reclamation of the gravel pit if the SB asks us to, because they prefer to deal with several at once, rather than separate amendments.

Dennis wants us to look at Act250 Appendices to know what we need to ask for in terms of any changes. Presently we understand that small reroutes for maintenance do not need amendment. And that cutting for view purposes is OK since it is in the TF master plan, which is part of the ACT250 Permit.

Rudy will take these issues to the SB meeting on Monday.

Bicentennial Trail Update

The current conditions prohibit doing any GPSing etc. at this time.

Other Business:

Trail Report Jim said most of April will be spent cleaning up the winter damage on trails - mostly windfall. Many trees are down. Then he wants to improve some of the easier trails and build more easier trails on the ski area, especially before the VT MTB Fest in July. We want to put in some bridges, but legal ownership issues prevent us from doing it now.

Laura said that we may need to designate some trails for handicap access.

Cathy suggested that at each meeting we establish agenda items for the next meeting. Rudy asked for suggestions for next meeting.

- Reclaiming the gravel pit. We will be needing some expert assistance in determining what needs to be done, and whether the town highway crew has the equipment, ability and money to do it.
- Trail Report. Look at what we should do, and at some point access how the trails are doing as an economic stimulus, perhaps in the fall. There was discussion of OL's indifference to the system. Dennis brought up ideas for a trail to bring more traffic from the trail system into town and the BGS or other businesses.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Lyall, TFC Secretary