

Draft Minutes of Town Forest Committee meeting, December 3, 2015, Story Memorial Hall

Members in attendance: Laura Stillson (chair), Rudy Gross, Dennis Lemire, Cathy Boedtker, and Jim Lyall

Public Attendees: none

1. Meeting called to order: 6:38 p.m.
2. Changes or additions: none
3. Minutes from 11-5-2015 were read and approved.
4. Public comment: None
5. Trail Report: Jim said that the trails were closed for the season the day after the last meeting. He did do some repair/slight reroute of Falls from Grace to correct a section that tended to erode due to steepness. Jim has been negotiating changes to trail easements to be placed on some of the trails on MFW's land which is not part of the acquisition. The final configuration will be presented to the DRB on Monday evening.
6. Update of proposed easement for Town Forest and ski area property: Laura said that there were just minor wording tweaks. We also received the first draft (128 pages) of the Community Forest Management Plan from UVLT and VHCB. This is only the beginning of the formation of the plan, needed as an example exhibit in the acquisition documents. We will be working on developing it over the next few months.
We also need to locate existing rogue trails as a baseline map. Any new rogue trails need to be shut down or use of the TF can be restricted and fines imposed. Rudy pointed out that there are also short trails from backyards along Coaching Lane Extension to the Gravel Pit Road.
7. Ski Area acquisition and Mt. Ascutney Outdoors updates: The closing is still scheduled for December 15th. One of the last obstacles to closing was finalizing the ownership/R.O.W. questions at Kimball Farm Rd. Dennis said that he had gone for a legal R.O.W. back 30 years ago, and now the town's lawyers finally managed to find those records.
8. Role of Town Forest Committee: This is still to be determined by the select board after the acquisition.
9. Budget 2016: We have a balance of \$10,649. We anticipate 2016 expenses of \$2,500 for trail building, but 78% of that (\$1,950) will be paid for by the RTP grant. Ascutney Outdoors and STAB will be paying for trail maintenance. Finishing the Community Forest Plan will require some funds to be pay Tii McLane. Cathy asked who would be paying for Act 250 amendments costs, and that it should be the town's expense. Considering expected expenses, revenues and starting balance we will not be asking

for tax money.

10. Town Report narrative: Laura will send Cathy some notes, and she will put together a narrative.

11. Other business: Jim had questions about the RTP grant. Cathy said that she told Sherry Winney that the select board and Martha would be the contact for further business.

Dennis said that his term on the committee expires at the end of this month, and that he was not going to serve another term. We thanked him for his many years of service.

12. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00.

Respectfully submitted, Jim Lyall, TFC Secretary