

Minutes of Town Forest Committee Meeting – February 7th, 2013

Members of the Town Forest Committee present: Rudy Gross, Dennis Lemire, Cathy Boedtke, Laura Stillson. Members absent: Jim Lyall

Members of the public in attendance including Dennis Conley and Tammy Conley. Amy Yates, and others. Members of the Conservation Commission: Ted Siegler, Win Johnson, Sue Greenall, Barbara Gerstner, and Chris Nesbitt. Select board members: Tom Kenyon.

Meeting called to order at 6:31 p.m. by chair Rudy Gross.

Approval of minutes from January 3, 2013 and January 10, 2013:

Motion to approve minutes by Dennis Lemire, second by Laura Stillson. Vote: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstain. Approved without modification.

Tom Kenyon requested advisement from Town Forest Committee as to where the class 3 road should end. Tom expressed concern about forfeiting town control of road should there be problems of abuse in the parking lots. Motion from Dennis Lemire to extend the class 3 road classification to the Town Forest parking lot. Vote: 2 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstained.

Bicentennial Reroute: Ted Siegler remarked that from the outset, the Bicentennial trail has not been formally maintained by the Town Forest Committee. After it's creation in 1991, Taylor Sullivan took it over as a boy scout project and various private individuals have continued maintenance over the years. Ted addressed concerns by the Conservation Commission regarding erosion due to the steep nature of the upper part of the trail, then listed the actions for a possible re-route that the CC would assume, including the Act 250 amendment and grant proposals for funding. Committees confirmed that Laura Stillson will be liaison between the TFC and CC for the re-route, and all agreed the first step will be to lay out the new trail on a map with GPS points, then walk with Rick White for his comments and expertise.

Amendment to Act250 for snowmobile use: To keep snowmobiles off town plowed roads, there was suggestion of a primitive road that might exist around Diane Connors field instead of using existing trail. However, Cathy had a meeting with Orange Lakes who voiced they are not in favor of the portion of the snowmobile trail which would connect to the resort. Liability is the major concern of Orange Lakes, with minor concerns of lights and noise. Discussion about location of trail to resort ensued with no actual trail location able to be determined. Laura asked if the amendment to the ACT 250 permit required the signatures of Orange Lake to move forward. Laura dismissed herself to attend Conservation Commission meeting upstairs. The discussion returned to address the trail location from Town Forest parking lot to Kimball Farm Road. Members acknowledge that the exact trail location needs to be defined before the amendment can move forward. Rudy suggested walking and marking the proposed trail before the next meeting. Given the uncertainty of the location of the actual trail, and potential misunderstanding by Orange Lakes regarding liability, Dennis made a motion to table the discussion to amend the Act 250 permit to allow a snowmobile trail to the Ascutney Mountain Resort parking lot. Rudy seconded. Vote: 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained.

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.