

Draft Minutes of Town Forest Committee meeting, June 4, 2015, Story  
Memorial Hall

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

Public Attendees: None

1. Meeting called to order: 6:35 p.m.
2. No changes or additions.
3. Minutes from the previous two meetings were read, moved and  
seconded and approved.
4. Public comment: None.
5. Trail Report:

In April, The Edge Fitness Center helped promote a community trail clean-up day with STAB on April 25th. 25 people showed up, helping to pick up downed limbs and report where chainsawing was needed. After sawing, the trails were leaf-blown. A lot of my time has been spent on signage due to trail changes around Glenn's and marking the new suggested routes with arrows at each intersection. STAB had a May Trail Day working on building a new trail on the ski area, 42nd Street. A second May trail day was attended by 12 members of the Windsor High lacrosse team and their coach, Randy Rupp. The kiosk will soon be moved up to the main parking lot. I have also worked out a reroute of the 5&Dime 5K and 10K because of the trail closings. I have begun improving Cloud Climber as part of the RTP grant we obtained, but we are waiting for Act 250 permit to work on some trails. We discussed the aggravation of permit delays, but expect some answer on Monday, through efforts of Martha. On May 5th, I walked the proposed boundary of the Mile-Long Field with Dan Purjes, Bob Farnsworth and Kate Wanner and determined where Cort's Jester can be rerouted. Two weeks later, Farnsworth surveyed and mapped it, and Dan approved it. The VT50, VT MTB Fest and the W. Windsor 5 & Dime are splitting the \$4,377 cost of leasing MFW land for events in 2015. (At the closing, the town will own the parking lot, and much of the areas that are needed for events, but not Cunningham's.)

6. Update on acquisition of resort property:

TPL has raised 75% of the private funds goal. We did get the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board \$300,000 grant. We were not awarded the \$340,000 federal forest service grant, primarily because toxic waste from fuel tanks was found on the land. We expect to get grant funds to clean that up. TPL is working on plans B and C to raise those lost funds, but they will go through with the acquisition regardless of whether or not

they have raised all the funds before the closing. Working out an agreement on Deer Run Rd. with the Mountainside Condos has delayed finalizing the property and thus delayed permitting for subdivision and Act 250, so the closing may have to be postponed a month.

Meanwhile the VHCB asked for a major revision of the easement, so we haven't seen that yet, to comment on. They want less in the easements and more in the management plan which is better for us. The easements are very difficult to change, but the management plan has to be revised every 5 years. Since the town is a party to the plan revisions, we will have more control over the future of the property. We expect a draft of the easement in the next week.

Laura as TFC chair and Jim as trail manager have been on a steering committee to form a non-profit to manage recreation on the expanded town forest and raise funds through grants and donations to create a community ski area. Also on the committee are Laura Farrell, Rob Calhoun, Deb Shearer, Leslie Levesque (GM of Orange Lake at AMR) and Brian Quirk (Ascutney Property Owners Assoc. president). We plan to present a mission statement, articles of organization and a draft agreement to the select board for their consideration at their 2nd scheduled meeting in June.

The Deer Run Rd. situation was discussed. No one was clear about the current agreement, however, its purpose is to settle an encumbrance on the resort property, not to gain access to the property. The committee looked at a map of the acquisition and discussed some minor details.

Laura and Jim will be part of a team that will walk all the trails, GPS them, and record all invasive plants to establish a baseline for a study of their spread along trails. We need another team member, and put it out to TFC members first to join.

7. Other business: None

8. The meeting was adjourned at 7:36.

Respectfully submitted, Jim Lyall, TFC Secretary