

Minutes of Town Forest Committee meeting March 19th, 2012
Story Memorial Hall

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

Also present: Erik Schutz

Meeting called to order: 6:38 p.m.

Public comment - Erik Schutz asked about the Town/STAB agreement. Cathy said that she would ask the selectboard to send the agreement to STAB.

Minutes for the February 7th meeting were approved.

Town Forest Policies

Jim said several people were taken aback by the restrictiveness of the rules.

Target practice - rifle and archery - we discussed the history of this use in the TF.

We need to massage the interim list to see that they agree with the town forest plan.

Discussion was tabled until next month.

Signage

A sign is needed on Coaching Lane directing traffic to TF. Also need one to say when open or closed back where people can turn around. Cathy will ask selectboard to provide this signage. STAB has had about 140 vinyl trail signs made with names and rating printed plus 30 posts - \$450. We also need to add intersection numbers, arrows to show the way home, danger warning signs X XX XXX, signs about prohibition re-uses, warning that horses may be ahead. "Horses this way" "at your own risk" signs where general public gains entrance to trails (kiosks, Kimball Farm Rd., at Coaching Lane and old Nordic Center), "only foot traffic beyond this point" at Bicentennial. Less is more - over-signing is not read. STAB will decide on signs needed and pass them by TFC.

Trail Usage

Who currently uses which trails? Southern Belle gets horse usage. Need to keep steep double tracks open for rescue but discourage use due to steepness and fragility. Horses use trail from Kimball Farm Rd. to Bicentennial to Coronary to Mile Long Field. Let's see if there is too much usage and erosion.

Parking

We need to meet with selectmen and Mike Spackman on site to discuss parking lot moving and/or expansion.

Hang-gliding

Cathy said there is no recent hang-gliding agreement with VHGA. They used to pay \$100 fee annually and asked for permission. We need liability spelled out. She will do more research.

Weathersfield Trail

Cathy will do some research on whether waranteed deed has been recorded.

Maps

Is selling maps creating liability? Selectboard will ask town attorney.

Trail Maintenance Job

There have been several people interested in the maintenance position. TFC will meet on 3/2 at 5:30 to look at applications, and Jim recused himself from that meeting. Jim said that if he is hired, he will most likely participate in discussions, but will have to recuse himself from voting

on some items.

New Business:

We were going to discuss new officers, but put it off until next month.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Lyall, TFC Secretary