

Minutes of Town Forest Committee meeting May 21st, 2012
Story Memorial Hall

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

Also present: Bruce Boedtke, Glenn Seward arrived later.

Meeting called to order: 6:32 p.m.

Changes and additions:

Dennis asked if we still need the interim rules. They are in effect until we develop final rules. At the June meeting, assuming that we have a permit in hand, we will discuss the interim policies and what changes to make.

Cathy asked that we also discuss signage and trail ratings tonight.

The discussion turned to the conditions at the parking lot and pit.

The committee voted To ask the selectboard to see to it that the highway department:

1. repairs the road to the gravel pit as soon as feasible.
2. finish the parking lot and road improvements by removing construction debris and old culvert.
3. clean up the old lumber which is currently dumped in an unsafe condition.

Minutes from the last meeting were read and approved.

Trail Usage

Snowmobile usage was discussed. Once the act 250 permit is in hand, the committee needs to determine if all or no snowmobiles will be permitted, and where. The existing trail is described on the TF Rules sign as "private", which doesn't make sense on public land. The sign on the bridge saying "snow mobiles only" is a standard VST sign for liability purposes only. Bruce said that all bridges need to be at least warned as a hazard.

ACT 250

Bruce said that the permit is "very close" and that a copy of the permit will be e-mailed to all members, when it arrives.

A rogue bridge has been rebuilt where the snow mobiles used to cross at the bottom of Coronary. Bruce said that it needs to be removed, because it is counter

to the Act 250 permit. Laura said that there has been bike traffic up the Bicentennial to the second falls.

Signs

Jim showed a simple "entering WWTF" sign for posting at points where trails cross the property line. He also showed a proposal for a kiosk at the TF parking lot. Laura volunteered to work on a more aesthetically pleasing Town Forest sign.

Jim said that we need signs to direct people to each of the trail heads. We need "welcome to WWTF" and also the Sport Trails at Mt. Ascutney at the TF entrance. Signs for the resort entrance and the Cunningham's parking lot need to be proposed to the select board and they will present to Orange Lakes.

Cathy is concerned about riders not being prepared for what they are going to encounter, and there is not enough consistency in trail ratings. Specific concerns include Cloud Climber 2 being underrated and the Last Mile stream crossing being too difficult for the rating. Jim said that there may be some harder obstacles by necessity, but Cathy said that if there are 6 "black" obstacles on a blue trail, it should be a black trail. "Opt - Out" bypasses may mitigate this situation, where feasible.

Laura volunteered to expose and clean up the stone "Bicentennial Trail" sign site.

Website - What information about the TF should be put on the town website. Jim suggested that we include the Google Earth 3-D map of the trails. Cathy said she would list under "Recreational Trails" but Laura also wanted to eventually have a section on the website including TF history etc.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Lyall, TFC Secretary