

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

Members in attendance: Dennis Lemire, Laura Stillson, Rudy Gross and Jim Lyall  
Public Attendees: None

Meeting called to order: 6:35 p.m.

Changes or Additions None

Minutes from the last meeting were read and approved.

Trail report The attached trail report was sent to select board members and Town Forest committee members and was presented at the meeting.

Trail Report 11/12/2012

Past Month

Maintenance and posting - hunting warnings and closing, "No Target Practice"

Chain-sawed downed trees on all of Bicentennial

Hurricane Sandy clean-up: many branches down everywhere and trees needing chainsawing.

Erosion from Sandy was minimal - on legacy trails, some water bars got clogged with leaves and over-flowed.

Monitored and reported trail erosion weekly.

Installed TF and horse signs plus extra CLOSED signs.

Inspected bridge structure - OK

Removed pallets from bridge deck for winter.

Finished work on New Belle, installed sign posts

Armored major stream-crossings. A few smaller intermitents to be done next year.

Leaf-blew  $\frac{2}{3}$  of trails.

Going Forward - volunteer time

Finish Sandy clean-up (mid-day, mid week)

Finish leaf-blow after hunting if weather permits.

Install new-trail and misc. signs when they come in.

Scope out next year's trails

Consider:

Allowing use of trails after dark during hunting season - have received several requests.

Adding winter project of marking all trails with paint blazes for ease of winter use.

"No Target Practice" signs were removed by someone, and target practice was evident in the gravel pit. Jim will post a new sign at the pit and another at the gravel pit road gate after hunting season.

Signs: It is now too cold to install vinyl signs (they shatter easily). Any further signage will have to wait until spring.

Trails for next year: Jim suggested that next new trails be on the ski area in the area of the east chair. Vermont MTB Association executive director will be discussing the connector trail to the State Park entrance with the director of State Parks in early December. If that trail is to move forward, we need to have trails to meet it at this end.

Jim moved that trail use be allowed after dark during hunting season. The committee felt that use of trails at night with headlamps would scare off deer and was unfair to hunters, so the motion received no second.

The committee voted to have Jim blaze the trails this winter, using light blue paint.

Bicentennial Trail - Conservation Commission is interested in working on the re-route. The committee was unanimous in thanking the Conservation Commission for their efforts to date. We will gladly use their expertise with matters of grants and relations with state agencies and their energy toward laying out a final route and obtaining labor to build it, but having responsibility for the town forest, we reserve the right to make judgement on the route and construction before passing our recommendation on to the select board.

Snowmobile Trail - Any further action on snowmobile use is awaiting Selectboard decision.

Horse Trail and Hunting signs Horse traffic will be monitored and routes and signs will be reconsidered in the spring.

Budget

The WWTFC budget for next year was discussed. Some preliminary figures were suggested, but the committee decided

to table discussion until the next meeting, when we will have data on what was spent through 2012.

Meeting day change The committee voted to change the monthly meeting day to the second Monday of the month at 6:00.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42.

Respectfully submitted, Jim Lyall, TFC Secretary