

Minutes of Town Forest Committee meeting  
October 16th, 2012  
Story Memorial Hall

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

Public Attendees: None

Meeting called to order: 6:30 p.m.

Changes or Additions None

Minutes from the last meeting were read and approved.

Trail report Jim reported that he had not looked at the snowmobile bridge, but would evaluate its structural soundness before next meeting.

The attached trail report was sent to select board members and Town Forest committee members and was presented at the meeting. Because trail construction is not permitted by the Act 250 permit after October 15th, Jim concentrated on finishing New Belle trail and armoring stream crossings. He still has horse and TF signs to be installed.

Promotion: STAB had a booth at VT50 registration, promoting the trails, and had a copy of the poster put in all (1,200) entrants registration packet that also hyped the Vermont MTB Festival next July.

Jim asked for an extension of his contract to finish signs and leaf-blow trails. The committee voted to extend Jim's contract through the first weekend of hunting.

Trail Closing: Committee voted to close all trails under the Act 250 permit November 1st through muzzle-loader season.

Signs We will post where horse traffic is allowed. There has been considerable horse traffic on singletracks. If horses continue to use trails that are not designated, we will have to put up some "no horses" signs. Jim will post signs saying "horses on designated trails only."

Users need to be warned that hunting is in season. Jim will post signs and notices online.

Plowing The town is planning on plowing the TF parking lot.

Meeting Time Jim suggested meeting the same night (2nd Monday) as the Selectboard, but at 6:00, allowing a report to the select board after our meeting. We will suggest it to the select board tonight.

Bicentennial Trail Conservation Commission will begin flagging a proposed re-route. Cathy suggested that we ask the SB to amend the Act 250 permit soon enough that the trail work could commence next spring/summer.

Multi-Committee Meeting Jim and Cathy and Laura reported that the main topic of discussion was what to do about the ski area, including the possibility of the town buying it and leasing it (for almost nothing) to someone who would operate the ski area. The purpose of the meeting was to let each committee know what the other is doing, to discuss possible overlapping efforts.

Other business Cathy pointed out the need for a donation box at the TF kiosk, and Jim said that he had the materials. There was a brief discussion of the budget for next year, and we will add that to the agenda for next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Lyall, TFC Secretary

Attached Trail Report was discussed

Trail Report, 10/8/2012:

Past Month

Maintenance and posting

Many downed trees

Extra attention to VT 50 route at Ascutney

Re-route of Fielder's Choice through "castle"

Monitored donation box at kiosk - total = \$10

Event erosion report after VT50

Monitored and reported trail erosion weekly.

Installed Kiosk and map and signs

Continued work on New Southern Belle

Began work on stream-crossing armoring

October

Maintenance and posting

Armor stream crossings

Final touches on New Belle and signs

Install TF and horse Signs

Related work/events (personal time and STAB)

STAB Trail Day October - off mountain

Video on Youtube, Facebook, websites - 1100 views so far

STAB promoted Ascutney and Vermont MTB Festival at a booth at VT 50