

Draft Minutes of Town Forest Committee meeting, September 3, 2015, Story  
Memorial Hall

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

Public Attendees: None

1. Meeting called to order: 6:34 p.m.
2. Changes or additions: Cathy and jim want to talk about the RTP Grant
3. Minutes from the previous meeting were read, moved, seconded and approved.
4. Public comment: None
5. Trail Report: Jim concentrated on layout, clearing and construction of the trails that are part of the RTP grant. On a STAB Trail Day and a couple of days after, a total of 10 volunteers worked on quad Bypass which is 95% done and rideable. He is now focusing on rerouting Last Mile to go around Glenn's land.
6. Update of proposed easement for Town Forest and ski area property: Laura said that VTHCB has not yet made their edits so UVLT has not presented a final draft for us to go over in detail.
7. Ski Area acquisition and Mt. Ascutney Outdoors updates: Selectboard still hasn't signed P&S agreement. Town ownership is expected to occur sooner than the end of the year. Jim said that Dan Purjes will put trail easements on the non-acquisition property (Mile Long Field and west to Coaching Lane) in escrow until he receives permits for subdividing the parcel. meanwhile we have a license to use the trails.
10. The select board has mentioned that they may have Conservation in charge of the easements, Mt. Ascutney Outdoors in charge of recreation, and the TFC being in charge of forestry. Cathy is concerned about who will be running MAO, how public will it be and who will have what responsibilities. Laura said that this is all under discussion and will be part of the Management Plan, and we need to think about what we feel that the role and responsibilities of the TFC should be, and what should be the responsibilities of the Conservation Commission, Mount Ascutney Outdoors, and the Select Board. Cathy is concerned with MAO having responsibility for all the recreation. Laura wants to try to get more information and hammer it out at the next meeting. Cathy is concerned about conflicts of interest between the various committees and parties involved, and she and Rudy said that all the committees, etc. should sit down together and discuss the plans, and who should handle what.
9. Other business: Recreational Trails Program Grant: Cathy said that

she has been unable to contact Sherry Winney about the status of the RTP Grant. What we do know is that we have until the end of next year to finish it. Jim said that with delays due to Act 250 and other priorities, the trails would not be complete until next year. Next year he expects that MAO and/or STAB would be handling the trail construction/maintenance costs without help from the town. The grant will pay back 72% of incurred costs up to \$4,300 or so dollars. But the grant is to the town not other entities, so we may want to provide for the town to pay for some small amount of trail work next year in order to capture those funds that we have been awarded.

10. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25.

Respectfully submitted, Jim Lyall, TFC Secretary