

West Windsor Town Forest Committee

DRAFT Minutes

Monday, February 20, 2012

Story Memorial Hall

Present: Cathy Boedtke, Rudy Gross, Dennis Lemire, Laura Stillson

- 1) Call to Order @ 6:45 PM.
- 2) The current executed STAB Agreement was looked at by members and suggested changes made. The changes will be done by Cathy and emailed to all members. If no error found, the agreement will be forwarded to the selectboard by Cathy.
- 3) Protocol for Town Forest Events. Cathy shared the current version of the public assembly license as found on the website. After discussion and some changes to the document Dennis motioned that we accept the changes as noted and title it Application for Town Forest Events. Laura 2nd the motion and it was passed unanimously. Cathy will send this document to the selectboard for their approval.
- 4) Rules of Procedure were adopted, as written and shared with the committee by Glenn Seward. Motion by Cathy, 2nd by Dennis. Passed unanimously.
- 5) Finalize Town Forest Management Plan. Discussion involved Cathy contacting Jason to verify that the necessary changes to the plan have been made>> Glebe Lot to be identified on every map, Label the Weathersfield Trail and the Hang-gliding launch area, Remove the "ski area" from the top of map as it is not part of Town Forest. Cathy will send a few photos to Jason and also ask that he remove the Mile Long sign and replace with another STAB sign. If all those corrections have been done then the committee feels that the plan is finalized and ready for adoption by the selectboard.
- 6) The Town Forest Committee is requesting \$25,000 for its 2012 budget. The following shows the estimated breakdown.
 - \$6000 labor for trail maintenance and improvements (est. 15 hrs per week)
 - \$5000 access road and parking improvements and maintenance off of Coaching Lane
 - \$5000 survey fund (estimated \$25000 funded over 5 years to complete the Town Forest survey)

- \$4000 signage (trails need to be accurately labeled to be user friendly for all types of recreational activities and abilities)
- \$3000 materials for trail maintenance & improvement (lumber, gravel, woodchips, etc.)
- \$1000 equipment (hand tools for trail maintenance)
- \$1000 misc. expenses (printing Kiosk materials, etc.)

7) Prepare for Town Meeting Day. Committee decided to run the slide show from 815 - 900 am. Committee feels that any questions raised will most likely be answered by the Selectboard. Any TF Committee member may speak if the opportunity presents itself.

8) Other Business

a) Act 250 permit status discussed. Cathy indicated that she understood that the application was to be submitted this week.

b) Question raised as to status of letter to "rogue trail builder". Rudy to contact Glenn and find out when letter was sent.

c) Laura expressed concerns about open fires in Town Forest as she came across two young teens this past weekend with an open fire. It was confirmed that our current interim policies state no open fires allowed. Agreed that we will discuss policies/rules of the Town Forest at our next meeting.

d) Laura presented some information from the Planning Commission. The PC has applied for a grant to research and update the recreation part of the Town Plan as it refers to Act 52 and the fact that Ascutney Mountain Resort has closed. Public hearings are mandatory as well as community focus groups. Laura will be part of this project and will represent the TF committee at these meetings. There will be a future public meeting involving all recreational groups in the community. The goal is to stimulate the economic base.

e) Laura shared feedback she has received regarding the possible "conflict of interest" in one of our committee members who is currently serving as a STAB representative and the potential new employee of the town (should the budget pass) to maintain trails. Discussion followed. No action taken.

10) Adjourn @ 825 PM