

Minutes of Town Forest Committee meeting October 17th, 2011

Committee members in attendance: Rudy Gross, Dennis Lemire, Dennis Conley, Cathy Boedtker, Laura Stillson

Others in attendance: Glenn Seward, Jason Rasmussen

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

Dennis Lemire asked question about using the Town Forest for firewood for residents which began a discussion about logging. From Tii's report, there is indication there are stands with reasonable access at lower elevation, as well as stands at higher elevations which would be less desirable for a logger because of the length of the drag. Glenn Seward suggested before we begin such a narrowly focused discussion, we should look at the survey regarding the vote of the people which indicated recreational use was the first choice of the town. Glenn also suggested we should also look at the phases we had established previously; he then provided us with a hand-out of such phases for review.

Jason reported the mapping of the trail system was not complete yet however there is a college student actively creating an accurate GPS map of the STAB trails. This map will provide the information required for an informed discussion about the possibilities of logging as well as the potential impact of logging on recreational activities. Jason told us he would have the map completed and ready for viewing at the next meeting.

Glenn indicated Act 250 for the trail systems has not been approved yet but is very close to completion. Any sort of promotion for the trail system will not begin until the Act 250 process has been finalized.

Regarding the signs to post the Rules of the Town Forest, Cathy suggested the use of the word "private" may be problematic in reference to the existing snowmobile trail. We determined we will "white-out" the word "private" for the near term and will ask Lelands to create a sticker with the word "access" as a the most ideal resolution. Rudy asked Glenn about how best to cover the cost of the posts and hardware needed to install signs; Glenn advised there has been an anonymous donation to the Town Forest in the amount of \$1000.00 which is to be used for this project.

Cathy reminded us about Tii's concerns about rogue trails on the mountain. Glenn told us if we could uncover the identity of the responsible party he will have our town attorney, Matt Birmingham, send an appropriate letter to end such activity.

If we need funds for 2012 then we will need to submit a budget to Glenn by December 1, 2011. We will determine the amount, and who will submit the request, at the November meeting.

A discussion began regarding STAB as the managing organization for the bike trail system within the forest. This contract is effect for one year; date was stated. It was determined discussion of whether or not STAB is the best entity to provide management will be revisited later, as the contract comes to conclusion and the needs of the town forest have evolved.

Meeting adjourned at 7:44.