

FORESTRY COMMITTEE MINUTES

July 25, 2022

Attendees; Heather Corbett; Stefenie Cote; Jason Croteau; Paul Gagnon; Charlie Gale; Chris Gallaher; Mary Hathaway; Tim Kennedy; Max Quinn; Bob Lamoureux; Gayle Plouff; Linda Irish-Simpson; Nick Spanos; Deb Waters

Absent; Ray Brunelle

Mary opened the meeting and asked if anyone wanted to speak in Open Forum. No one spoke.

Charlie reviewed the emails he has received from concerned citizens. These emails are submitted via the Forestry Committee's website;

Some trails at PVMP and Peabody are overgrown.

ATV activity at Cutter Merriam

Charlie is looking into blocking the ATV access, and cleaning up the trails.

Derek Pomerleau reported on Beaver trapping. He has trapped for two weeks and killed 11 beavers. He recommends two more weeks of trapping in the fall. Derek suggested we hire someone to repair the existing beaver deceiver. Charlie took the action item to contact Brian Zahn, since Brian installed the existing beaver deceiver.

Paul suggested that someone other than Mary take minutes. It isn't fair to Mary to expect her to run the meeting and take minutes simultaneously. Paul agreed to take minutes for tonight's meeting. Stefenie Cote agreed to do so for future meetings.

Bob reported on the status of repairs to the Class A trail portions of Spaulding Hill Road and Tower Hill Road. Bob said Jim Hoffman, Pelham road agent, is not willing to use the Town's equipment to repair these roads. But, for safety reasons, namely fire and police access, it is important that it be done. Jason volunteered a skid steer to move material and Heather volunteered an operator. The Forestry Committee will pay for any materials needed. The materials can be brought in through the gate at Gowing Lane, in Hudson and dumped at the timber harvest landing site. Then, the skid steer can move the materials to the areas in need. Paul made a motion to approve the expenditure of up to \$5,000 for material for this job and Bob seconded the motion. All five members voted to approve. It is important that this be done soon, while the ground is dry and labor is available. Charlie will reach out to the trail adopters and volunteers to see if anyone can help spread the material. Bob will lead this project.

Chris updated us on all the work done at Merriam Farm. Two trails, the Beaver Brook Trail and Field Trail have been cleared and marked. Bench locations have been chosen. Two benches will be installed soon and perhaps a third bench in the future. Linda Irish-Simpson's husband volunteered to construct the two benches using approximately \$75 of material for each bench. Deb has seeded the loam that was spread on both sides of the new bridge. Chris suggested that

wild flowers be planted on the loam behind the new parking lot. We are planning an Open House on Sunday October 16, 2022 from 1 pm to 3 pm. Speakers will be Fred Merriam (previous land owner), Jason Croteau (Selectman), Mary Hathaway (Forestry) and Paul Gagnon (Conservation). It was suggested that a crossing guard be present to help with crossing Mammoth road if some folks park at PVMP. The plan is to have a cake, cider, apples, coffee, etc. We will unveil the "Merriam Farm" sign during the event. Members of the Forestry committee will lead trial walks through the new property.

Deb updated us on the work done at the Little Island Pond Conservation Area to make the trails more friendly to walkers with limited capability. They have weed wacked the orange trail, installed a bench and a few more trail markers. They plan to do some trail smoothing soon. The Pelham Awesome Walkers will be walking these trails at 9 am on August 5th.

Deb reviewed the RSA that defines the roles of the Forestry Committee. The emphasis is on professionally written forest management plans that take into consideration Wood, Water, Wildlife and Recreation. In addition, we must be aware of any deed restrictions and follow them.

Walk-in items;

Paul noted that one ATV access point, to the Costa Conservation Area, has stopped being used, at least for now. The trail that was being used is now overgrown with ferns and brush.

Jason will pursue, with the Select Board, the possibility of drafting an ordinance that would prohibit the discharge of fire arms on Town Land except when hunting

Bob motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded and agreed to unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by;
Paul Gagnon
7/28/22