

Burke Town Forest Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2026 6pm Burke Community Building

In Attendance: Cliff Pierce (Chair), Don Hale, Bob Gondar, Diane Wells (Secretary), Hank Butler (Treasurer) and Makail Tipton. Absent: Elise Lawson Guest: Matt Langlais

September Meeting Minutes: Bob motion to approve, Hank second. Approved.

Treasurer's Report: Hank provided report and current CD balances (via Cathi Feeley).

Subcommittee Purchase Policy: Subcommittee discussed 2024 purchase policy and the need to amend given clarification received from the Selectboard (Sept 14 meeting). Discussed who needs approval for what and the checks and balances of spending budget. Cliff will draft changes and send to group via email to review.

Willey Woods:

Brontosaurus/wildlife habitat/apple tree release project on hold, waiting for dates from contractor. Don will inquire.

Newark St parking: Discussed what needs to be done to move forward with proposed parking area. Question of whether the non-wetland parking area is part of the wetland permit process required to construct a trail from the parking area, through a wetland and across Roundy Brook and a second perennial stream. Diane will seek clarification from Lauren Sopher, state wetland ecologist who walked the property in May. Discussed Matt's alternative "Northern" trail route away from wetlands, in an attempt to minimize impact (< 5,000sq.ft) and qualify for General (vs Individual) wetland permit. Northern trail would require revising stream alteration permit currently held. Tentative plan for a group field walk to explore trail and bridge location options on Monday, Nov 2. Diane will ask Elise Lawson and Dusty May (NorthWoods Stewardship Center) to join. Discussed Bob's proposed trail, an extension from current trail system into southeastern portion of forest (south of Roundy Brook). Matt pointed out the proposed trail would likely require an amendment to the management plan. Diane will reach out to easement holders for clarification.

North Pasture:

Parking area: Matt secured two bids to clear brush along TH23 and parking area. Hank made a motion to accept the bid for \$2,500 from Keith Simoneau, Timber Gardens LLC, to do the work after November 1. Bob second. Approved.

Group discussed adjacent landowner concerns re: potential unapproved access and use of their property. One proposal was additional signage to make it clear when patrons are leaving the forest.

Other Business:

Cliff will not be able to attend the November meeting. Makail will take the lead with agenda and leading meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:50 pm Respectfully submitted by Diane Wells