

**Burke Town Forest Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2026 6pm Burke Community Building**

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

January Meeting Minutes: Hank motion to approve, Don second. Approved

Treasurer's Report: No funds spent since last meeting. Cathi Feeley is selling magnets, calendars, mugs and more depicting her photography of Burke, proceeds going to Town Forests. To date she has raised \$200+. Available for viewing/purchase at Town Office.

Willey Woods:

NorthWoods Stewardship Center Seed Collection: Permission form was brought to January BCC meeting, then to Town Office for Selectboard signature. Signed on Feb 2 and Diane sent to NWSC. Potential for coordinating with BTS and combining collection effort with an educational field trip for students.

Recap of site visit with Beth Gula, NEFF: Cliff and Elise snowshoed with Beth to proposed bridge locations. Visit went well. Beth noted rare plant upstream of bridge site. Plants will be buffered from any impacts. All questions were answered. Since visit, NEFF and VHCB (easement holders) sent a letter to the Town in support of the Roundy Brook trail & bridge project along with a letter of support for the 2026 Recreational Trails Program grant applied for.

Walk with Kevin Tolan on vernal pools: Hank in communication with him. Potential May date for walk. Coordinate with other Conservation Commissions and interested parties for group educational session on vernal pools and mapping locations. Vermont Coverts interested in partnering.

Willey Woods Draft Trail Map: Curt Busto brought two large draft maps for committee members to review and comment on. Final map will be hung on info kiosk and smaller copies will be available for forest patrons (kept dry in trail head log stand). Goal is to put map on Town website and QR code on kiosk will allow patrons to access with phone. Curt will incorporate changes to map. Discussed options for printing large-scale map.

North Pasture:

Wondering about ideal site criteria for duck nest box placement. Diane will research details. Ideally will install boxes when snow is on the ground.

Other Business: Potential gathering in May at Willey Woods led by The Northern Forest Center and including folks from other towns owning town forests.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:05pm

Respectfully submitted by Diane Wells