

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

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

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

Treasurer's Report: Hank provided a budget report and current CD balances (via Cathi Feeley). Both articles on the Town Warrant pertaining to Town Forests (creation of a Town Forest Expense fund and the transfer of unspent BCC budgeted funds into Expense Fund at end of year) were approved and will go into effect starting with the 2026 budget.

Willey Woods:

Landscape Scale Restoration Grant: Matt is in process of collecting bids for the skid trail restoration work planned for the Newell parcel this year. Bids placed will be on an hourly basis for roughly 11,450 feet of skid trail and for the delivery and installation of I beams and concrete abutments required for bridge project.

Roundy Brook Trail & Bridge Project: Waiting to hear whether the Town has received the 2026 Recreational Trails Program grant. Matt has been in communication with Lauren Sopher, Wetlands Ecologist with Dept. of Environmental Conservation, and it appears we will need a wetlands permit to follow through with this project. Seeking clarification and guidance from Lauren before moving forward.

Shrub plantings: The group agreed to purchase up to 20 native fruiting shrubs from the TriCounty Natural Resources Conservation District annual plant sale. The bareroot, 2-3' stems will be planted along the perimeter of the parking area on Green Up Day.

Green Up Day Work Day, Saturday May 2: The day before, Bob and Hank (and anyone else who wants to join) will do a preliminary walk-about and mark where the cedar posts (11), bench, and trail log will be placed. We will plan to provide coffee and treats for work-day participants.

Vernal Pool Workshop, Sunday, May 17: Matt has a conference call on March 25 with Kevin Tolan (VT Center for Ecostudies) and folks from The Northern Forest Center to figure out logistics. This informational day is targeted to Town Forest Committees and will be highlighting the work we have done on the forest, along with vernal pool ecology and mapping. Vermont Coverts interested in partnering.

North Pasture:

The group looked at maps of North Pasture and made a plan to install Bob Gondar's wood duck box on Monday, March 16. Meeting at 9am.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:20 pm

Respectfully submitted by Diane Wells