

Burke Town Forest Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
July 14, 2026 6pm Burke Community Building

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

June Meeting Minutes: Elise motion to approve, Don second. Approved.

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

Willey Woods:

Vermont Tree Farm Program Membership: Group discussed pros and cons of joining and agreed to opt out for now. Cliff made a motion to revisit when Town Forest management plans are up for renewal (2034). Elise second. Approved

Apple Tree Release/Habitat Work: Roughly 1.5 acres remains per management plan (3.5 acres completed August 2025). Matt will flag and define proposed area. Brontosaurus work to be completed late August or September by Mike Bickford. (Subcommittee approved spending up to \$5,000 at May 12 meeting.)

Ongoing Maintenance: Matt has been regularly brushhogging parking area and portion of main trail stemming from it. Kristen Langlais weedwhacked around parking area posts and shrubs we planted May 2. Culvert along access road may need some attention.

New trail: Bob proposed (via July 13 email) creating a new trail, to extend from the Willey Trail, head in a southerly direction through the old agricultural land, loop in the vicinity of Newark St, and return through the hardwood forest to reconnect with the Willey Trail. Group discussed pros/cons. Much of the area is wet and a portion is being managed for wildlife habitat.

North Pasture:

Proposed Parking Area: Matt will create a draft map of the proposed parking area and a draft plan for its creation/management, to be shared with Subcommittee via email. Plan will ultimately be submitted to Vermont Land Trust (easement holder) for approval.

Other Business:

Willey Woods - Proposed Newark Street Parking Area: May require a wetland permit. Elise will delineate surrounding wetland/wetland protection zone and survey alternative brook crossing in late August. Her findings will help determine location and footprint and whether a permit is needed.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:15 pm

Respectfully submitted by Diane Wells