

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

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

July Meeting Minutes: Don motion to approve, Cliff second. Approved.

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

Willey Woods:

Fall Apple Tree Release/Habitat Work: Matt communicated with Mike Bickford. Cost for brontosaurus work has increased to \$1,800 per 8 hr day. Remaining 3 acres will take 2.5-3 days to clear. Hank made a motion to increase the project's budget from \$5,000 (voted at May 12 mtg) to \$6,000. Don second. Approved. Work to be completed mid-September. Mike will need to provide the Town with an updated certificate of liability.

New trail: Bob proposed 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. The group will explore options and layout in late fall.

Newark Street Parking Lot: Question of how to design this area so as to avoid wetland and its buffer. Elise mapped the wetland(s) in the area and the buffers. She will flag the boundary for an on-the-ground visual and the Committee will use as a guide to help delineate the lot.

North Pasture:

Parking Lot: Permission received from Vermont Land Trust (easement holder) to create 8,000 sf parking area and install an information kiosk off of class IV road (TH 23). Matt will take a look at what trees need to be cleared and what will need to be done to prepare the base of this former gravel pit.

At their August 3 mtg, Cliff and Diane updated the Selectboard on the status of the proposed parking areas at Willey Woods and North Pasture. Discussed logistics and ideas for improvement of TH 23 given Weyerhaeuser will use to access remote logging operation during winter of 26/27 or 27/28.

Other Business:

Matt showed the group a new, low-impact trail bridge design used at Lyndon State Forest, built by NorthWoods Stewardship Center crew. This design may be ideal for crossing Roundy Brook on Willey Woods with minimal impact/disturbance.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:20 pm

Respectfully submitted by Diane Wells