

**Burke Town Forest Subcommittee Meeting Minutes  
May 12, 2026 6pm Burke Community Building**

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

**April Meeting Minutes:** Hank motion to approve, Diane second. Approved.

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

**Willey Woods:**

Horses on Willey Woods trails: no discussion, no action taken.

2026 projects: Discussed refreshing boundary markers, picking up where BTS students ended in 2024. Plan for remediating logging ruts taken off the table, area has regenerated more than anticipated. Committee would like to continue with phase II of brontosaurus work: roughly 2.5 acres remains to be cleared, apple trees released. Hank made a motion to approve spending up to \$5,000 for brontosaurus work, to be performed by Mike Bickford. Cliff second. Approved. Schedule for August at the earliest.

UVM red spruce research project: Matt planted 400 seedlings with UVM graduate students on Newell parcel. Four areas (20mx20m), 100 seedlings each, planted in a grid. Part of a large northeastern study to assess red spruce adaptation.

NEK Town Forest Collaborative Event: Sunday, May 17 from 12 to 4pm

Site visit with State Wetland Ecologist, Lauren Sopher, Tuesday, May 19 at 11:00, to assess plan for Newark Street parking area and construction of Roundy Brook Trail and bridge and the anticipated need for a wetland permit to perform the work.

2026 bear baiting proposal: discussed, no action taken.

**North Pasture:**

Wood duck box: Diane will locate a site for the box to be placed. Likely location behind BTS with their cooperation and students engaged in installation/long term monitoring.

Weyerhaeuser logging access plan: Cliff spoke with Nate Edwards, the local contact for the timber company which owns property adjacent to North Pasture and accesses via class IV road off of Victory Rd. This is the same road the Committee has the goal of using to establish an off-road parking area for the Forest. Edwards said they may conduct timber harvest January 2027 and not planning to improve road significantly. Any road improvement must be coordinated with the Town. Don and Cliff will communicate with and begin discussion with Dave Kaufman and Jim Sullivan.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 7:20 pm

Respectfully submitted by Diane Wells