

Burke Town Forest Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2026 6pm Burke Community Building

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

July Meeting Minutes: Hank motion to approve, Bob second. Approved.

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

Willey Woods:

Newark Street Parking: Elise flagged boundary of wetlands (pink flagging) and wetland buffer (yellow) and (with Bob) delineated a 4,600 sq ft area outside of buffer zone suitable for parking. Bob provided the Committee with a map showing the proposed parking area, and the group discussed expanding area into the tree line. Expansion would require tree and stump removal, but allow for separate entrance and exit and improve line of sight for patrons pulling in and out. Because the proposed parking area is outside of the wetland buffer zone, it would not require a wetland permit, but the committee will follow up with state wetland ecologist to keep her informed of the direction the project is taking. Next step is to explore design for primitive trail. Group will pursue in November after leaf fall.

Photo Journal Highlighting Progress: The Committee would like to compile photos taken before/after habitat work and of other community forest projects and make them available to the public. Much progress has been made. How to do this? The BCC is considering creating a Facebook page or web page which would help.

North Pasture:

The Committee would like to clear brush and trees along TH23 (10 ft either side, along first 300 ft from Victory Road) and in the former gravel pit which will serve as the future community forest parking area. Clearing along a public road requires approval from a town's tree warden. Burke's Selectboard serves as the town's warden, and the BCC is on their Sept 14 agenda requesting permission to clear within the TH23 ROW. The two abutting landowners have been notified of this intent. In compliance with VSA Title 24 Chapter 67, once approval is granted, the tree warden will post public notice of the intent to clear along the ROW, and the notice will be posted a minimum of 15 days prior to cutting or removing trees. If the cutting or removal is appealed pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, the legislative body of the municipality shall hold a public hearing.

Other Business:

Discussion of Forest Subcommittee purchasing policy. Diane will email proposed changes to all BCC and Forest Subcommittee members for input and approval before it is brought to the Selectboard at their Sept 14 meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:20 pm

Respectfully submitted by Diane Wells