

**Burke Town Forest Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2025 6pm Burke Community Building**

In Attendance: Cliff Pierce (Chair), Don Hale, Diane Wells (Secretary), Hank Butler (Treasurer).
Guests: Matt Langlais, Mikael Tipton, Bob Gondar, Chris Manges, and Brandon Mapes.

Absent: Elise Lawson

Guest Speaker: Cody Jackman, Game Warden, VT Fish & Wildlife. Burke Town Forests are open for hunting, fishing and trapping. Jackman reviewed regulations. Subcommittee manages use and rules on Town Forests and needs to draft guidelines (examples: no ATVs, blaze orange, permission for game cameras? tree stand use, location, and management?). Jackman willing to preview before posting. Subcommittee will provide patrons with contact info on Willey Woods kiosk. To contact Jackman: Dispatch: 802-748-3111 Cell: 802-279-3560 Email: cody.jackman@vermont.gov

July Meeting Minutes: Hank motion to accept, Cliff second. All approved.

Treasurer's Report: Anticipating bill for Mike Bickford's work with brontosaurus (~\$4,750). Roughly 5 acres cleared over 3 days. Woodcock habitat and apple tree release. Habitat will be maintained in future with brush hog. Goal is to maintain singing males (8 previously observed). Over time, the 30 acre old-field area should be maintained and kept open per management plan. Future goal: release remaining apple trees (50 or so).

Subcommittee Membership: Dusty LaBarr resigned. Makail Tipton and Bob Gondar joining.

Email Address: conservationburkevt@gmail.com To be shared between Conservation Commission and Forest Subcommittee. Chairs are responsible for checking and forwarding information to their respective committees.

Willey Woods: Newell parcel management plan being developed (amendment to Willey Woods Plan, ultimately one forest with one easement). Will need permission from New England Forestry Foundation (easement holder) for where connecting trail crosses Roundy Brook and passes through Wetland Protection Zone. Parking area to be included in plan. Matt will provide draft amendment at October Subcommittee meeting for review. Final purchase and closing to occur by end of October.

September 18, 4 to 6pm, Walk & Talk event with NorthWoods Stewardship Center board and community members to discuss the town forest and NWSC role in management.

September 25, 4pm walk with Mike Morin and folks involved with the Northern Forest Center who are interested in forest projects addressing climate change. Cliff and Hank will help lead discussion on Town Forest history. Matt will lead discussion on forestry work and climate-focused projects.

Trail Signs: Bob donated material used for posts and signs. Signs laser-engraved by Rick Angell, The Foundry (Lyndon Institute). Almost all signs are up (4 remaining). Rick asked us not to send \$\$ donations but to give a good word in article(s) about The Foundry.

New Business: Think about 2026 projects/budget and start discussion at the October meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:52pm

Respectfully submitted by Diane Wells