

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

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

November Meeting Minutes: Elise motion to approve, Hank second. Approved

Treasurer's Report: Hank provided a summary of accounts and balances (report generated by Cathi Feeley, Town Treasurer).

Proposed Trail on Newell parcel: Closing for Newell property occurred on Nov. 14,, it is now officially part of Willey Woods. Cliff and Diane met with Matt Langlais and Dusty May, Conservation Corps Director for NorthWoods Stewardship Center, on Nov 10 to survey potential trail route from Newark Street log landing to existing trail on Willey Woods. Proposed trail would be roughly 3,000' long, require two bridges over two perennial streams (including Roundy Brook), and significant trail construction would be needed for 1,500' (to include ~180' of bog bridging thru hydric riparian area). A preliminary estimate for materials and labor was developed (\$39,734) and the pre-application for the 2026 Recreational Trails Program grant (administered by VT Dept Forest, Parks and Recreation) was submitted on Nov 21. Approval to submit the full application was received on Dec 5. RTP grant requires 20% match. Discussion of where match would come from. Bob made a motion to increase 2026 BCC budget by \$8,000 to be used for (potential) match. Hank second. Vote failed (two in favor, four opposed).

Parking Area on Newell Parcel: At the Dec 1 Selectboard meeting, Diane spoke about the grant application and asked for thoughts on improving the log landing for a parking area. Board and attending community members shared concern for a potential blind spot when exiting. Future tree removal and road work may solve issue. Dave Kaufman, road foreman, agreed to look at need for culvert(s).

North Pasture 2026 goals:

- Offroad parking area: Weyerhaeuser slated to improve and use TH 23 to access timber harvest. Potential to work with them?
- Strengthen boundary markers.
- Honeysuckle management.
- Wood duck boxes.

Other Business: Bob raised idea of creating a bluebird trail at Willey Woods and offering a nest box-building workshop next year. Idea to be brought to BCC meeting. Cliff made and installed with Hank two "Entering Burke Town Forest" signs at either end of the VAST trail on Willey Woods.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:21pm

Respectfully submitted by Diane Wells