

Burke Town Forest Subcommittee Meeting Minutes October 14, 2025 6pm Burke Community Building

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

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

2025 Budget/Expenditures Report: Cliff updated the Committee on the status of the BCC/Forest Committee 2025 budget, based on his conversation with and printed reports from Cathi Feeley, Town Treasurer. There is a balance. Discussion ensued as to what town forest supplies are needed and could be purchased with remaining funds.

- Two signs needed at VAST entry points on Willey Woods: "Entering Burke Town Forest. Multi-Use Trail." Constructed of wood (Foundry) or alternative material (Sign Depot?)
- Two signs for Willey Woods Kiosk: Guidelines for General Use and Guidelines for Hunting. Cliff will develop drafts and send to members for review (including Cody Jackman on hunting draft).
- Purchase split-rail fencing to delineate Willey Woods parking area and contain motorized traffic (per stewardship plan). Discussion of design, total length, and cost. Bob will look into the cost for a 10-foot section.

2026 Preliminary Budget Discussion - Future Projects

North Pasture

- Town Forest entry sign(s)
- Information kiosk
- Off-road parking area: potential cooperative effort between timber company, KT and Forest Committee

Willey Woods

- Information kiosk #2: Newell parcel entry point
- Parking area on Newell parcel
- Bridge over Roundy Brook, connecting Newell parcel with core of Willey Woods
- Trail connecting Newell parking area to bridge
- Remediation on Newell parcel (stewardship plan, grant funds available)
- Brontosaurus work to release additional apple trees (3 days)

Considerable discussion was had on pending forest projects and their order of priority. Cost of wetland delineation and permitting fees for Newell parking lot, creating a trail on hydric soils, and constructing a bridge to meet State environmental and emergency responder standards will prove significant. Question of Newell parking lot visibility and safety for patrons entering/exiting and whether permission is required from the Town or the State of VT to create a new entrance/exit point on Newark St. VT Timberhomes potential vendor for pre-made kiosks, or Committee could purchase supplies and construct.

Other Business: Bob Gondar is now an official member of the Forest Subcommittee. Willey Woods donation received from local patron.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:39pm

Respectfully submitted by Diane Wells