

Craftsbury Municipal Forest Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 19, 2023, 5:30 pm, Coburn Hill Lot

Members in attendance: Barbara Alexander, Ann Ingerson, Stuart LaPoint, Rob Libby, Robert Linck, Mike Renaud, Chris Sanville, Jane Solomon

Members not attending: Ben Alexander, Jim Jones, Logan Jones, Jim Moffatt

Coburn Hill Lot Signs

Stuart, Mike, Jane and Ann arrived early to install signs in plenty of time before losing daylight. We found ribbons and/or pins marking all intersections of the woodlot boundary with the road. Stuart made posts with attached plywood to avoid attaching signs to trees. Once we see how these signs last, we may install the others at the Hatch Brook lots.

Other Actions at Coburn Hill

We leaned the toppled sign back up so it's visible for the public walk on Saturday, October 21 sponsored by the Craftsbury Conservation Commission and Planning Commission. The committee agreed that improved parking would help make the land more accessible. We think we can make enough space by brushing out some saplings without cutting large pines. We can do that work early next summer, and will request gravel and grading from the town.

We did not re-flag the trail on the east side of the road, but agreed that getting that trail back into usable shape might be a good idea eventually now that the Coburn Hill road is better maintained and more populated. Farley Brown worked with some college students to brush out the entry to the trail. We agreed that mountain bikes and ATVs would not be appropriate recreational uses, as so much of the ground is wet on the east side of the road.

The forest management plan for this property written by Jared Nunnery in 2018 calls for treatments in stands 1 (furthest west) and 2 (straddles the road) in 2025. The committee walked through the eastern side of stand 2, where the white pine overstory seems to be growing well and a hardwood understory is developing. We agreed that a forester should mark trees once we make the decision to go ahead with a cut.

Next Meeting – TBD

Meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.