

Craftsbury Municipal Forest Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 28, 2024 6:30 pm, Town Hall

Members in attendance: Barbara Alexander, Ann Ingerson, Jim Jones, Stuart LaPoint, Rob Libby, Robert Linck, Jim Moffatt, Chris Sanville

Members not attending: Ben Alexander, Logan Jones, Mike Renaud, Jane Solomon

Election of Officers

Jim Moffatt declined to run again for Chair. He would like to remain on the committee to keep his record of serving on town committees continuously since 1964! The committee values his wisdom and thanks him for many years (decades) of leadership.

Robert Linck was elected Chair. Rob Libby was re-elected Co-Chair and Ann Ingerson was re-elected Secretary.

Review of Forest Management Plans

Coburn Hill:

This property has more active management options, and we had a broad discussion about actions we'd like to take this summer, including:

- Boundaries: Logan and Seth marked the northern boundary last year. We think the northern boundary has been agreed to by the neighbors, though their hunting blind might still be on town land. Mike Renaud marked the other boundaries recently using onX gps. Boundary signs placed last fall are still up.
- Parking: Chris Sanville is willing to donate some back-hoe work to improve parking near the kiosk. Jim Jones will ask the Select Board if they could haul gravel to the site this spring.
- Kiosk: Rob has some large posts that we may be able to use to replace the rotting uprights. The main part of the sign may be okay, though some shingles are damaged. We'll need to reset the sign.
- Trail: We agreed to bring back the trail that we worked on many years ago. Rob would like to make a loop, returning to the road through the wetlands along the northern boundary. We need to explore to see how wet the area is.
- Planting: We discussed planting red oak in drier areas. Stuart wanted to research tree stock (he recommended larger trees due to browse pressure). Others have had success planting acorns, so we may try that approach.

We agreed to meet at the Coburn Hill site for a work day on Sunday, June 9 at 9:00 am. Tasks would include any remaining work on the parking area, repair kiosk, improve existing trail, scout location for northern loop trail, investigate sites for red oak planting, explore western side of road including apple trees for potential release and possible "wilderness" area in Stand 1 northwest corner. We can discuss materials needed at our May meeting.

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Hatch Brook:

There are relatively few management actions required at this time. Better defining the boundaries would be the first priority.

- Install signs where the boundaries intersect Hatch Brook Road (6 locations). Stuart has some posts he could contribute. Ann has signs ordered last year. We would need assistance from someone with a gps to find the pins.
- The boundaries of the Baker lot are still not well defined on the ground. The area west of the road was scouted out several years ago, but we should relocate those pins. At some point a team with a gps assist could mark those less-defined boundaries.

Ash Mapping

Rob gave an update on his work with Brian McChesney. They have completed most “hot spots” with part of the North Craftsbury Road and King Farm Road still to do.

Common Trees

Stuart has taken on the task of pruning where possible to avoid power lines. Thank you Stuart!

Website Update

Ann will work on updated text and run it by committee members before submitting it.

Next Meeting – Thursday, May 16, 6:30 on the Common

Following Meeting – Sunday, June 9, 9:00 am at the Coburn Hill lot

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.