Wolcott Forest Stewardship Committee

General meeting notes, Thursday, April 10, 2025
6 pm – 8 pm

Attending: Gordon, Roger, Dave, Mike, Jack, Cate, Gabe
Online: Maxfield
Quorum? yes

1. Call to order (6:04 pm)
2. Organizational actions
    a. Amendments to agenda
        i. none
    b. Approve minutes from last two meetings (2/13 and 3/13)
        i. **Moved: Mike; 2nd: Dave; Passed unanimously**
3. Public comment
    a. none
4. Ongoing (6:10 pm)
    a. Gordon reported that there was no update from Sinuosity regarding trail building, as it is still too wet and muddy to work. **He will check in with Sinuosity before our next meeting.**
    b. Jack reported that NRLT is waiting on an appraisal before approaching the town regarding the Smith property. It may not be done until late June. Although discussed, no decision has been made regarding a carve out to preserve the existing homestead.
    c. Gordon attended the Select Board Meeting and Planning Commission meetings to discuss the Westover property. They seemed to have more questions than answers at that time, and were forming their opinions. The Planning Commission is interested in adding a trail and river access through that parcel. Gordon shared that we were interested in having trails, although some voiced that they'd like to keep it undeveloped.
        i. The culverts there are undersized and overflowing in some spots, and the old logging roads are eroded and not ideal for

regular access. However, it really is the best access point for that part of the Town Forest. **Gordon would like to request that the Select Board remove the "No Trespassing" sign and confirm that the town is being compensated for the sugaring operation**

ii. Dave mentioned that sugaring mainlines are too low to the ground, but they could put a sap-ladder or quick disconnects to allow access. This is necessary to facilitate maintenance.

d. The committee further discussed Dave's list of maintenance requests. After the discussion, **a motion was made to approve the requests** (**Moved, Mike; second, Gabe; passed unanimously**)

i. **Gordon will write a letter from WFSC detailing the requested work, specifically which trees are to be cut and for what purpose. (Grantees must give written approval for initial clearing.)**

ii. **Dave will take before and after pictures of the work areas, and will likely reach out to recruit volunteers in the near future (around Mother's Day**).

iii. The committee continued its discussing regarding the necessity and logistics of logging the town forest for the purpose of proactive management. It reached a general consensus that we should follow up with Luke regarding the forest management grants discussed in previous meetings.

1. **Gordon made a motion to engage Luke Hardt to propose a plan to investigate logging opportunities in north end of the Bourne parcel for primary benefit pf remediating the existing roads and leave them in a**

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good place for any further development related to recreational use. (2nd: Roger; passed unanimously)

5. New business (7:10 pm)
    a. Roger announced that Luke Hardt would be hosting a pruning workshop in April. Also, that Wolcott Elementary would like to participate in sign painting as discussed in previous meetings. He is also working to organize summer bike rides for kids, working with Ollie Buress from the Craftsbury Outdoor Center. Saturday, September 13 is our tentative date for our Grand opening ceremony, which may be hosted at WES.
6. Adjourn (8 pm)