Wolcott Forest Stewardship Committee

Notes from General Meeting Thursday, September 4, 2025
6 pm – 8:00 pm

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

1. Call to order (6 pm)
2. Organizational actions
    a. Amendments to agenda
    b. Approve minutes from last meeting (8/14)
        i. **Next meeting; posted late**
3. Public comment
    a. Dolan: The trails are great.
4. Ongoing (6:10 pm)
    a. Trail-building update - trail names and signage:
        i. Following discussion, the following trail names were agreed upon:

Working Name	Approved Trail Name
School Trail	Study Hall
School Trail to Flatiron Road	Screamin' Eagle
Parking Lot Entrance Trail/Road	Ease Up
Mountain Bike Loop	Big Squeeze
Hiking Loop	Rhoda's Ramble
Spruce Traverse / To the River	Float Tank
Bike Climb to Hiking Loop Connector	(Float Tank)
Mossy Traverse to Mossy Rd Turns	Link Up
Advanced Bike DH	Leon's Lightning
Mossy Rd	Greenpath
Field Loop	Moebius
Field Edge Singletrack	Twist

ii. Gordon mentioned that **some caution signs should be placed at the bottom of The Big Squeeze at the entry point of Grand Central. Roger committed to researching kiosk signage to be sure that we have the desired notices displayed. Also, signs need to be placed at entry points of the school property to help control foot/bike/vehicle traffic through school grounds**.

b. Maintenance update
   i. Mowing/leaf blowing:
      1. **Roger will follow up with Phil to understand their maintenance schedule for the school grounds.**
      2. Roger spoke with two potential mowers, but wanted to verified which areas we want to be maintained. After discussion, the committee agreed that brush hogging the path maintenance across E Elmore Road was the priority. Dave stated that the trails need to be cleared every three weeks or they will lose structure.
      3. The committee agreed that the gate by the bridge entering the Bourne parcel should be upgraded to allow easier access. **Roger committed to reaching out to fence companies to determine cost for upgrading the bridge gate.**

c. Forest management update
   i. Site mapping of water quality concerns
      1. On 9/28, Luke Hardt, Rick Dyer (VT AMP Forester), Silas Rainville (VT Watershed Forestry Program), Peter Danforth (Director, Lamoille County Conservation District), and Roger walked through the Westover

right-of-way into the Bourne property to assess site degradation caused by old logging roads. They identified that the project was picture perfect for seeking funds under the grant programs previously mentioned. The funding may come with restrictions on area use for a period of time, depending upon the funding source secured. More information is needed regarding the conditions and timetables for available grants. Silas will follow up soon. We should plan on moving forward with forest inventory to prepare for application in the spring.

   a. Gordon described why it is preferable to develop the area that was surveyed for recreation, due to its proximity to the road and potential for some great views.

2. Dave reminded the committee that the town has access to a right-of-way off of Elmore Pond Rd to the Bourne parcel. He reported that the property owners might be interested in allowing us to develop that for forest access.

   a. The committee reviewed the area map to assess potential points of access to the forest, including that right-of-way, and also the Smith property. May require special permission to build a boardwalk over parts of the swamp.

d. Upcoming events

   i. Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony

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1. The event is coming together as planned, with the bulk of the preparations being managed by TPL. Kid's painted signs are almost all in place; they will be complete before the ceremony.

5. New business (7:30 pm)
6. Adjourn (8:00 pm)