Wolcott Forest Stewardship Committee

General meeting notes from Thursday, October 9, 2025
6 pm – 8:00 pm

Attending: Roger, Gordon, Dave, Cate, Jack, Luke, Trevor Corp
Online: Maxfield
Quorum? yes

1. Call to order (6:08 pm)
2. Organizational actions
    a. Amendments to agenda
        i. Trevor Corp voiced concerns with right of way discovered across his property.
        ii. Dave announced that the fire department is scheduled to execute a training exercise simulating a possible biking injury on the trails.
    b. Approve minutes from last meeting two meetings (8/14 and 9/4)
        i. 8/14 and 9/4
            1. **Moved Cate, yes (4), no (0), Abstain (0)**
3. Public comment
    a. Trevor is concerned about the right of way and sought understanding as to what the future use of it may be. He has buildings built within the right of way, and if utilized it would have a big impact on his property. Jack said that he reviewed the documents identifying the right of way with Kate and Hayden, but Trevor has since provided additional documents for their review. Jack stated that it's an issue with the town, and they can make corrections as needed. Trevor stated that he supports the town forest, but believes there is a mistake, as the identified path of the right of way does not make sense. Dave pointed out that we need an access point to that part of the park to facilitate forest management. Luke Hardt said that any right of way interpretation should be done by certified survey agencies, not TPL.

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4. Ongoing
    a. Trail-building update
        i. Gordon shared that we received lots of positive feedback during the grand opening celebration, and that the people who participated seemed pretty happy. Dave said that we need trail maps up and available to hand out. Gordon asked for help printing out large maps, as he is not available during the work week. Roger agreed to inventory necessary signs and shop around for pricing.
            - **Motion: Allocate $200 for safety signs and trail use signs, to post recommendations at kiosks, and to organize volunteers to post signs.**
                - **Roger: I can take this on**. I just need to take an inventory of what we may need. Let's get a real estimate before we start buying**.**
                - **Moved Gordon, yes (5), no (0), abstain (0)**
        ii. When discussing parking for the west side of E Elmore Rd, Gordon said the side of the road by the bridge seems a perfectly good place to park. Maxfield asked who would be responsible for snow removal. The committee will follow up with the town for clarity. Some were concerned about the parking lots impact on the wildlife near the bridge.
        iii. Gordon invited committee members to walk a proposed new trail meant to establish a better traffic flow from Link Up to Float Tank.
        iv. The committee discussed having a QR code to report trail degradation and possibly assigning someone to monitor and communicate.

    b. Maintenance update
        i. Leaf blowing and other routine maintenance (not discussed in detail)

    c. Forest management update

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i. Luke reported that the committee must decide if we want to formally engage the watershed management team, and to decide: (1) what areas are we willing to set aside for 3 years (from logging, recreation, etc.), (2) which areas do we want to encourage recovery; and (3) which trails do we want to retire or rework. Gordon clarified that although we would like to open that area for recreation, the water quality concerns are a higher priority. Luke said that ash borers are a big deal and should be dealt with as soon as possible, within 2-3 years, as once the tops of the trees are dead, they can't be cut safely. He said that there are other funding sources available for this work, and that it could likely be done concurrently.

1. **Motion to proceed with executing a formal inventory with the purpose of securing CWSP funding to engage the Watershed Forestry Program to:**
    a. **Install water bars to divert surface flow**
    b. **Regrade and shape trail sections with active erosion**
    c. **Stabilize stream crossings**
    d. **Close out inactive or undesirable trails**
        i. **Moved Roger, yes (5), no (0), abstain (0)**
        ii. **Luke will follow up with Silas and Rick**

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