Wolcott Forest Stewardship Committee

Notes from general meeting, Thursday, November 13, 2025
6 pm – 8:00 pm

Present: Roger, Gabe, Cate, Jack, Gordon
Online: none
Quorum? yes

Agenda

1. Call to order (6:15 pm)
    a. Delayed since we were locked out of the computer
2. Organizational actions
    a. Amendments to agenda
    b. Approve minutes from last meeting (10/9)
        i. Corrected two typos
            1. Approved? Y 3, N 0, A 1
                a. passes
3. Public comment
    a. Jack reported that NRLT has completed their monitoring of community forest for the year and that all is in order.
4. Ongoing (6:25 pm)
    a. Trail-building update
        i. Trail map
            1. Gordon reported that two proposed maps have been put forward – one from Brooke, one from Kate Warner. Both are good, but neither are perfect. **There are some trails missing from one map, and informational text on the other, that should be reviewed and discussed at a future meeting.**
        ii. Signage
            1. Roger shared some ideas for signage, specifically sourcing and pricing for safety signs. The group had concerns about the sizing and styles of the signs

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researched. The group discussed the appropriate verbiage and placement for the "Safety Zone" signs around the school. They reviewed proposed language for signs marking the school border with the school hours. **Gabe said he would try to follow up with the local game warden for guidance.** Roger requested a larger budget to move forward with purchasing signs that were already discussed. **He committed to purchasing road crossing signs, first, since it is a safety issue.**

2. Roger opened discussion about marking trails for specific uses. Cate affirmed that these would be appreciated.
3. Roger proposed using removable bollards to replace the access gate by the bridge rather than a swinging gate. After discussion**, Roger agreed to further research the scope and cost of this installation.**
4. Gordon stated his perspective that any of the ideas discussed are worth pursuing if they improve the function and safety of the trails, and resources will be made available.

iii. Trail network additions

1. Tabled

b. Maintenance update

i. Posting safety/no hunting zone signs (already discussed)

c. Forest management update

i. Erosion remediation

1. Tabled

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5. New business (7:30 pm)
    a. FY 2026 Budget
        i. Gordon reviewed our budget request from last year.
        ii. After discussion, the committee agreed to request $11,000 for our FY 2026 budget.
            1. **Gordon made a motion to bring the proposed $11,000 budget to the Select Board; seconded by Dave.**
            2. **Approved? Y 4, N 0, A 0**
                a. **passes**
    b. Discuss implementing a process for circulating committee members
        i. Gordon opened discussion regarding a process for rotating committee seats. He is concerned about member burnout, and that some committee members are habitually absent.
        ii. Gabe wondered if the Recreation Committee should be brought closer to the Forest Committee, possibly a fusion of the two.
        iii. Gordon invited someone else to step up to be Chair, if desired, as he had been occupying the position for a while now.
        iv. Roger requested that officers wanting to step down should compile notes for their successor. He proposed that the committee should define roles for each committee member, with clear deliverables and a piece of the budget.
        v. Jack advised that the committee should constantly be seeking future members.
    c. Meeting in December?
        i. No meeting
    d. Right of way across Trevor's property

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i. Jack reported that Trevor delivered documents that contradicted TPL's claim. TPL will look into the issue on behalf of the town. They believe that, once reviewed, the entirety of the file will demonstrate that TPL is correct. They will work to schedule a face-to-face meeting with Trevor to reach a common understanding once everything has been reviewed.

ii. Gordon stated that the desired outcome will be to maintain a positive relationship with our neighbors.

e. Tony Smith property

i. Jack reported that it is likely NRLT will do a deeper ecological survey of the site this year to determine next steps.

6. Adjourn (8:00 pm)