# Wolcott Forest Stewardship Committee

Notes from public meeting on Thursday, April 9, 2026
6 pm – 8:00 pm
Transcribed from archived recording by Roger LaChance

Attending: Gordon Young, Trevor Putvain, Dave Holden, Jack Travelstad, Gabe Tempesta
Online: Maxfield English
Quorum? no

At the **Wolcott Town Office**
or join the **online Zoom Meeting**:
Meeting ID: 814 3120 2980
Passcode: 944699

## Agenda

1. Call to order (6 pm)
2. Organizational actions
    a. Amendments to agenda
        i. None
    b. Approve minutes from last meeting (3/12/26)
        **i. Revisit next month when quorum is present**
3. Public comment
    a. none
4. Ongoing (6:10 pm)
    a. Trail-building update
        i. Maxfield delivered a proof for the school border signs, and will move forward with making finished signs and trail use markers.
        ii. Jack confirmed that the proposed new trail (discussed last meeting) is currently allowable under stewardship plan. The trail would improve accessibility without diminishing the natural character of the forest. It will improve hiker safety by allowing an alternate path from the primary bike trail. There are no apparent impacts on the habitat as documented. The proposal does require selectboard approval. Gordon confirmed that it would be constructed by volunteers.

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b. Maintenance update
    i. Discuss trail conditions and prepare for spring maintenance
        1. Trevor P. sent photos to Gordon identifying areas within the forest that could benefit from regular maintenance, specifically an established forest road (mentioned last meeting). The work requested would require largely hand tools, maybe a chainsaw (for blowdowns). May require permission from an adjacent property owner - Bill Howland's - to access the property to do the work (since it's for the town). Dave offered to donate funds in order to clear a road for the right of way. Gordon clarified that a right of way does not guarantee access to properties beyond those explicitly identified in the ROW. Jack voiced that the work proposed by Trevor falls under the allowable work scope in the stewardship plan.
        2. Dave requested that the trails be surveyed to assess maintenance needs. Gordon reported that the trails were still muddy, but a maintenance day should be scheduled when the conditions change for the better. Some trails need to be cleared of blow downs and reshaped in some areas. Requested that we all monitor and report back if they see signs of trail use that is having a detrimental effect, and to refrain from making additional rules if they are not necessary.
c. Forest management update
    i. Update regarding the village wastewater system [Jack]

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1. Jack relayed that he preferred the project manager to request all forest-related actions at once, rather than seek approval for each action. He reviewed actions that require explicit approval above the existing project authorization within the stewardship plan; the wastewater project does require written approval from both easement holders, but the conditions are simple. The current request had a time constraint of March 31, in order to satisfy criteria for the town's funding (to minimize disruption of habitat). Approval letters were prepared and sent to the town before deadline; they are clear to proceed. NRLT will monitor the construction within the forest, as per normal protocol.

ii. Update on applications to address silvicultural work proposed by Luke

1. None yet. **Gordon will reach out to Luke for information.**

5. New business (7:30 pm)
   a. Mandatory training, Vermont Open Meeting Law
      i. Link to training video (https://youtu.be/kKKQeUiAFLs)
   b. Request for Trevor Putvain to take Mike Greene's seat
      **i.** As Mike has been mostly absent from the meetings, **Gordon offered to push this request forward.**
6. Adjourn (8:00 pm)