# Wolcott Forest Stewardship Committee

Notes from public meeting on Thursday, May 14, 2026
6 pm – 8:00 pm

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

## Agenda

1. Call to order (6:07 pm)
2. Organizational actions
    a. Amendments to agenda
    b. Approve minutes from last 2 meetings (3/12/26 and 4/9/26)
        **i. 3/12/26**
            **1. Moved: Gordon,**
            **2. 2nd: Gabe**
                **a. Unan.**
        **ii. 4/9/26**
            **1. Moved: Gordon**
                **a. 2 passed, 3 abstain**
                    **i. Unan.**
3. Public comment
    a. none
4. Ongoing (6:10 pm)
    a. Trail-building update
        i. Gordon commented that he marked his proposed trail (red ribbons). He requested feedback, acknowledging that it will require significant work to make it a nice walking trail.
        ii. Trail map
            **1.** Roger shared that people have been asking for trail maps – posted and circulated – that are a little easier to read. After discussion, **Roger committed to locating**

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**a source file that can be used to update our current map.**

b. Maintenance update
    i. Discuss trail conditions
        1. Trail conditions were discussed, but were described as still too muddy to execute much work. Independent scouting and planning activities was encouraged. Gordon mentioned that leaf blowing (previously discussed) may not be necessary, and maybe not desirable, as it works to help maintain trail integrity and prevent runoff.
    ii. Organize volunteers for spring clean up
        a. Regarding trail maintenance, Gordon suggested posting of Front Porch Forum and organizing a crew independently whenever we identify spring cleanup work to preserve some flexibility when scheduling work days. Trevor shared that People's Academy does a community service day (5/27), and that he may be able to add forest clean up to their task list.
            **i. Roger offered to walk the trails and inventory potential projects.**
        2. Trail building:
        3. Trail maintenance:
            a. See above

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iii. Trail map

1. Post new map with rules
    a. Remove no e-bikes from SP
        **i.** The committee discussed updating the Stewardship Plan to clearly allow class 1 and 2 e-bikes on town forest trails.
        **ii.** Proposed amending the language on page 34 of the Stewardship Plan to include: **Electric bikes are permitted at this time…class 1 & 2 pedal assist…no class 3 and unclassified; ON DESIGNATED TRAILS**
            1. **Gordon made a motion to accept the proposed changes, which passed unanimously.**
            2. **Roger agreed to update the draft to include the approved changes, and Gordon agreed to approach the selectboard to accept the proposed changes.**

c. Forest management update

i. Update from Luke:

1. Regarding the CWISP funding request (program to reduce phosphorous runoff from polluting waterways) He has been talking with several point people. Our application has been submitted, and we are likely to receive a grant to remediate one mile of the trail, where it runs parallel to the river and up into the

saddle. He recommended that we ask the Selectboard for three contractors to consider, preferably from the town. The contract would be ultimately between the town, the contractor, and the conservation district/funder. We will need to provide an operating and maintenance agreement with the conservation district allowing for maintenance, allowing them to monitor the work. If repairs are needed, they would fund it. We will need to follow AMPs and best practices. The biggest concern is that the application will be selected late and there won't be a contractor available to do the work. He went over the process for collecting bids, choosing a contractor, and executing the project:

i. Talk to Selectboard, get input on bidding process
ii. Circulate prospectus, chose candidates
iii. site visits
iv. review bids
v. negotiate final contract
vi. forester does layout work
vii. preconstruction meeting
viii. work executed, reviewed
ix. pay contractor

b. Gordon acknowledged that Luke has been and continues to donate considerable time pursuing this project and thanked him.

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i. **Gordon & Luke will approach the selectboard and communicate back their preferences.**

5. New business (7:30 pm)
    a. The committee discussed the work that still needs to be done at he earthen dam at Collete's Pond. It was mentioned that it might be a good project for high schoolers if the point of access and transport can be determined.
    b. Jack inquired about progress removing identified patches of invasive species. Luke offered to neutralize them with herbicide.
    c. Roger asked if anyone was interested in forming a volunteer subcommittee. If there is interest, he would prepare a proposal work activating it.
6. Adjourn (8:00 pm)