Wolcott Forest Stewardship Committee

General meeting notes
Thursday, August 13, 2026, 6 pm – 8 pm

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

1. Call to order (6:05 pm)
2. Organizational actions
    a. Amendments to agenda
        i. Jack requested to add an update regarding the Habitat for Humanity site to new business.
    b. Approve minutes from last three meetings (5/14, 6/11, and 7/9)
        i. Approval of meeting notes for all 3 dates carried. Maxfield abstained.
3. Public comment
    a. The committee discusses a complaint logged with town office. The affected party was unable to locate the trailhead parking. The committee recognized that a sign marking the entrance to the parking lot is needed.
    b. Roger mentioned that the town had corresponded. To allow for construction of the town wastewater system, some of the forest trails and the main parking lot will be temporarily closed. Gordon had noticed some staging for the construction.
4. Ongoing (6:10 pm)
    a. Trail-building update
        i. Trevor inquired about next steps for the new proposed biking/hiking trail, anticipating that machinery may be needed to move some of the larger boulders blocking the route. There was discussion about whether or not machinery was necessary to establish a safe path.
    b. Maintenance update
        i. Discuss trail conditions
            1. Trevor reported that approved work on the forest trail across Bourne property to VAST trail is finished.

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2. Trevor also reported on progress regarding the Collette Dam, stating that the light cleanup is finished. The committee reviewed photos of the remaining trees that need to be cleared, and discussed several possibilities of how to remove them, including the possibility of hiring a contractor and the best way to access the site.
3. Gordon reported that independent volunteers were out keeping the trails clear. Roger offered to mount QR codes to recruit volunteers for larger projects.

c. Forest management update

i. Forest Road Reclamation Grant

1. Luke reported that 4 contractors showed up to survey the jobsite. The town is waiting on bids to be submitted (there is an 8/21 deadline). On 8/28, Lamoille Valley Conservation will host a walk through with the winning contractor, which Luke will attend. After this meeting, work can begin. The committee discussed concerns about completing the work by deadline. Luke is confident that they can complete it in time, and that an extension would likely be authorized, if necessary. Jack requested notification so that he can take photos of the work for NRLT's records.

5. New business (6:45 pm)

a. The committee discussed where to place the trail crossing signs for E Elmore Rd, as the trails on either side are staggered. They also discussed adding a sign to mark the trailhead parking entrance.

b. The committee discussed plans for its table at the town BBQ. Trevor volunteered to take the lead on this.

c. Jack reported that the Habitat for Humanity site is at risk for stream overflow. He plans to seek permission from the Select Board to install erosion controls at the edge of the property. After a brief discussion the committee raised no objections.

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6. Adjourn (7:40 pm)

Next meeting: 9/10/26

Future agenda items:

- Game of Logging update
- Ollie Buress's request to add a pump track to the school adjacent to the town forest school property

Notes prepared by Roger LaChance