Wolcott Forest Stewardship Committee

Notes from General Meeting on Thursday, September 10, 2026
6 pm – 8:00 pm

Attending: Dave, Gabe, Trevor, Gordon
Online: Maxfield, Amanda

Call to order (6:04pm)

Organizational actions:
Amendments to agenda: Gabe wanted to discuss installing flying squirrel boxes.
Trevor wanted to work on building a Facebook presence. Trevor also wanted to talk about maintenance around the Screaming Eagle trail.

Approve minutes from last meeting (8/13): Moved by Dave, seconded by Gabe. **Yes: unanimous**

Public comment: Amanda asked which forest we were discussing. Gordon introduced her to the town forest and current projects. Gordon mentioned that there are many projects that need to be done within the forest, but they rely upon people stepping up and moving them forward. Trevor believes that the Facebook profile can be used to help build a pool of volunteers.

<u>Ongoing</u>
Trail-building update:

Trevor reported that he met the new owner of the Tony Smith property, who reported that there had been at least one party at the parking lot. He asked what NRLT's role is regarding the new forest property. Gordon affirmed that it would managed consistently with the rest of the town forest. He confirmed that the town would be responsible for enforcing any rules regarding the property. Trevor stated that since the developed parking lot is so visible, it invites misuse. He shared concerns about how NLRT built it, but now we're responsible for addressing any nuisance that it causes. **Gordon stated that he had not heard of it before the meeting, and would reach out to Jack to discuss the concerns. Gabe asked to revisit this on the next agenda. Gordon suggested adding a kiosk with a map and information regarding the forest and its allowed uses.**

Dave asked when the transfer would be complete. Gordon confirmed that it would likely be a few months away. Dave would like it to be clearly marked with signage as the town takes formal ownership of it. **Gordon reminded the committee to refer any complaints regarding nuisances to the sheriff.**

Gordon shared details of Senator Peter Welch's recent visit, and showed off an area that could become the school's outdoor classroom

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Maintenance update:

Gordon reported that the trails are being well-maintained, and show signs of regular use. Trevor asked if the forest roads and skid trails have been mapped (as a resource for future planning); Gordon confirmed that this has not yet been done. **Trevor offered to begin mapping these**.

Trevor reported on his work at Colette Pond, confirming that the small tree work is done. He shared concerns about how to handle larger trees once they are felled. The committee discussed the possibility of bringing equipment there to get it done and how to access it. Dave voiced concerns that the removal could cause greater damage than leaving them in place.

The wastewater system crew still has the trail section blocked, but they have not yet completed the construction.

Forest management update:

The erosion control area has been flagged out, but work has not yet begun.

Trevor asked if the forest committee had a responsibility to remove fallen trees from the school property. The committee agreed that there wasn't much they could do outside of the town forest property.

<u>New business</u>

Gabe introduced a project that installs flying squirrel boxes, which could possibly involve the school. **Requested to work on it with Roger on connecting the project with the school**. **Maxfield requested a link to the blueprints.** The committee voiced its support for the project.

Trevor asked for the social media credentials in order to develop the Town Forest's presence in the community. Gordon referred him to Roger, as the most recent custodian of those credentials.

Dave proposed approving compensation to Luke Hardt for the work that he has performed managing the water quality project. Gordon agreed, but stated that Luke already has compensation built into the current scope of work; any additional compensation would have to be reviewed and approved by the town. **Dave requested that they continue this discussion at the next meeting after they've gathered more information.**

6. Adjourn (7:18 pm)