

Forest Board minutes

2016-07-13

Minutes

Fairlee Forest Board Meeting

July 13, 2016

PRESENT:

David Matthews -Chair of Fairlee Forest Board

Peter Lange - Fairlee Forest Board

Jim O'Donnell- Fairlee Forest Board

Terry Lewis- Fairlee Forest Board

Mitch Phelps- Fairlee Forest Board

John Paveler - Cross Rivendell Trails Board member

Meeting called to order at 4:00 PM

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Paveler reported that there had been two fires on Baldtop with no fire rings and open exposure to strong winds. There was motorized dirt bike damage on the East side of Baldtop that had torn out the edges of the trail.

Discussion ensued that there are two entrances to the forests from the West Fairlee side. ATV and dirt bikes are allowed on town trails. There needs to be signage that addresses carry in and carry out of any trash and the fire hazard is a serious concern. The board discussed buying signs that alert the public to have no fires and to carry out trash. Signs specific to motorized vehicles on areas of The Cross Rivendell Trail (CRT)

that are sensitive to such traffic could be placed by the CRT board.

MOTION was made and amended to purchase 7 signs stating that there be no open fires and that all trash should be carried out. Signs are to be placed at access points and two signs will be placed at open fire problem areas. Motion was made by Terry Lewis and seconded by Mitch Phelps. Vote was unanimous. Terry Lewis is going to pursue a local price for the signs.

NEW BUSINESS

Jim O'Donnell reported that he has cleaned up the brush on Chestnuts Landing and that the chestnut trees are doing very well.

Discussion about the Forest Board job description.

David Mathews submitted information from Town Reports and the Grant Application for the William Lange Memorial Forest,

-a permanent Board of Trustees of at least five members serving for a term of at least five years and elected by the town. They will be responsible for planning and managing all activities...

- Funds generated from timber may only be used, at the discretion of the Board of Trustees, for the purpose of maintaining the recreational uses of the (William H. Lange Memorial) forest.

■ Accumulation of funds will be managed under the supervision of the Board of Trustees.

-1996 Annual Report of the Selectmen; the Lange Forest Board (aka Board of Trustees as per language in the grant) will oversee all municipal forests.

Discussion of responding to the Select Board about establishing a joint Forest Board/Conservation Commission.

David distributed the statues for Conservation Commissions.

Discussion ensued about concerns about private property, availability of time for board members to add this to the list. The board will look at the statues in preparation for the next meeting.

David reported that the Stream Alteration General Permit was given to him by Brian Hanson's office.

Jim O'Donnell left the meeting at 4:45 PM.

For the next meeting the Forest Board will consider a proposal by Terry Lewis to have three scheduled Fairlee Forest Board meetings each year. The meetings would be on the first Thursdays of March, June and September to be most effective for the seasonal aspects of managing the Fairlee Forests, to ensure the predictability of meetings scheduled and the warning of meetings.

MOTION was made by Terry Lewis to accept the minutes for the April 7, 2016 meeting and was seconded by Mitch Phelps. The vote was unanimous in favor of accepting.

MOTION; to adjourn at 5:00 PM passed unanimously.