

Minutes of F.X. Shea Town Forest Committee Meeting -- Unapproved

From: Dina DuBois

Date: January 25, 2012

Place: Corinth Town Hall

Present: Rik Sheridan, Wendy-Wieland-Alter, Ginny Barlow, Dina DuBois, Susan Morris, Penny Andrew

Coordinator: Val Stori

Absent: Frank Roderick, Courtney Haynes

Meeting called to order at 7:07PM

I. General discussion of the Blue Trail snowshoe walk. 21 people participated. Dave Paganelli came. Anne McKinsey took pictures. Val packed in hot chocolate for everyone. Discussed having another snowshoe walk. Dina said the school does NOT have any snow shoes for kids.

II. Reviewed that Val's payment was approved at the Dec. 1, 2011 meeting. Ginny moved to correct the Dec. 1 minutes to reflect that. Seconded. All in favor.

III. February and March Events

Dina moved to approve Val's planned events as follows with Val leading

Feb.21 Family Tracking Workshop 10:00-11:30

Feb. 21 Winter Wild Flower walk 1-3.

***Feb. 23** Sugar Maple pre-school at the library to learn about animals in winter and tracking

***Feb. 28** Sugar Maple pre-school in the Town Forest 10-11.

Three groups. Need helpers.

*These dates have moved to Mar 1 and Mar 2—awaiting confirmation from Sugar Maple

Sunday March 11. Winter Tree Identification led by Courtney Haynes.

Motion made by Dina, seconded by Ginny. All approved.

Motion made by Dina to authorize Val to purchase field guides (not to exceed \$100) to donate to Blake Memorial Library. Susan seconded. All in favor.

IV.

Plowing road to forest. After discussion, motion made by Dina to offer Mr. Hathaway \$25 to plow more than he usually does to make forest accessible by car. Wendy seconded. All in favor. Ginny will talk to Mr. Hathaway.

V. Discussion about mud season use of road. Concern was expressed about vehicles making deep ruts in the road. Don't want to put up signs, but mention it in the newsletter to not create ruts. Often road is so rutted no one would go there.

VI. Grants

Val reported that she should hear back from Vermont Humanities Council next month on the proposed Story Walk application.

Val proposed to write a grant due in mid-March for the entry sign. The grant request for @\$2,000 will be made to the Vermont Forest, Parks and Recreation Department's Recreational Trails program. Dina made a motion and Ginny seconded to have the grant written. All in favor.

VII. Timesheet

Reviewed payment process for Val. Val prepares timesheet. Committee approves and then goes to the Selectboard for approval and then to the Treasurer for payment.

VIII. Town Forest and Town Meeting

Dina suggested a photo show in Town Hall the day of Town Meeting to promote awareness of the Activities taking place in the Forest. She has spoken to Nor Ollette and Nancy Ertle about mounting the show. Rik Sheridan will choose ten pictures to print 8 x 10 Dina will dry mount them if necessary and coordinate the show with Norm who will also have a show of the Cookeville *Cafe* Pictures. Dina made a motion to do the photo show. Wendy seconded. All in favor.

IX. Discussion of forest management plan.

Using a summary of various plans Val looked at the committee talked about the pluses and minuses of several approaches. Proposal B which includes Goals, guidelines, and action plans with timetables. Val likes the goals and

guidelines part. Ginny reflected that she prefers something more flexible and adaptive. She suggested that rigid timelines create problems in the future.

The idea of distributing a survey at Town Meeting was rejected as the committee needs to have its own draft plan and a vision to present to the public before conducting a survey. Val, Wendy and Ginny said they would work together on a "mission" purpose statement for the forest. Then the committee can respond to that. A public forum or survey would have to follow a crafted plan.

Discussion about getting a high rate of response to a survey was talked about. Ginny's experience with the Conservation Commission said the plan was sent to all town residents with a reply sheet attached. The cost of a stamp did not seem to deter responders. There was a high rate of return. Having an online way to respond was briefly entertained but rejected as not all folks have internet access.

THE management plan would include an inventory which was done at the time the land was put into conservation. At that time there was a possibility to have a house within the property. That was removed when it was given for the Town Forest

The existing conservation easement on the Town Forest property was reviewed : Public access is mandated and there cannot be any posted no trespassing signs.

X. Next meeting.

The scheduled Feb 29 meeting is in conflict with another meeting. Ginny moved to have the next meeting Wednesday March 7th, the day after Town Meeting at 7 at the Town Hall. Wendy seconded. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10PM.