

F.X Shea Forest Committee minutes March 7, 2012

Present: Wendy Weiland-Alter, Susan Morris, Val Stori, Frank Roderick, Dina DuBois, Rik Sheridan

Absent: Penny Andrew, Courtney Haynes, Ginny Barlow

Guest: Chris Groschner

Val Stori called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

Val asked the committee if the guest could speak first. All agreed.

I. **Forest Sign**. Chris Groschner proposed to make a steel sign with the name of the forest cut out with a plasma cutter. He could make it in Dan Wing's garage. He showed a rough sketch idea- a concept for the committee to consider. The sign would be hung high enough so that snow would not cover it. He presented an idea for sliding the sign into posts fixed in the ground. The sign would be put at the entrance to the forest. (Another sign previously discussed in the minutes is for a kiosk). Chris said he'd price out the steel in different sizes. At the April 18th meeting he hopes to have time to bring a design and price estimate. He will not charge for making the sign, but the cost of the materials could be paid for by the town forest committee. Frank mentioned that the town garage may have steel and that they also have a plasma cutter.

II. January 2012 Minutes approved. Dina made the motion.

Wendy seconded. Frank asked if the Dec. 1 minutes were corrected. Val will check to see that the correct Huntington name is changed and sent to Rik to post.

III. Val reported on the Upper Valley Land Trust's(UVLT) annual meeting of conservation commissions. F.X. Shea Town Forest was complemented on their educational activities as exemplified in their pictures and newsletter and PR notices. Val spoke on Education Programs and how UVLT and VINS is developing a naturalist program for naturalist leaders. Val reported that the Orford CC sponsored a bioblitz on their conserved lands and that

the results were published and are available at the town offices, libraries, etc. Perhaps Corinth would be interested in doing something similar. She also mentioned that the group discussed making creative names for activities to promote event attendance. i.e. instead of calling a workshop, “vernal pool walk,” consider calling it “Salamander meander.”

IV. Val reported on the pre-school activity of Animal Tracking. She did story board pop ups of animals tracks with the children at the library at story time. The preschool is scheduled to visit the forest on March 23rd for animal tracking.

Dina reported that Lynn Murphy at Waits River school has tree ID booklets. Susan will pick them up for Courtney to use at this weekend's tree ID walk.

Waits River School after school program showed interest in the forest via Bona Wheeler, but the forest is far from the school. A question was raised about permission for committee members to drive school children.

V. Dina reported on the response to the postcard size map of and directions to the Town Forest given out at Town Meeting. Face to face contact with a take home reminder spurred interest. Some didn't know about the forest and some didn't know where it was. They were also referred to the photo display in Town Hall. The town clerk took some and the post office has some of the cards. So does the BML.

VI. Timesheet for Val. Frank moved to accept the Nov.18- first of April timesheet for Val. Susan seconded. All agreed. Val will pass the time sheet to Susan Fortunati in time for her to present it to the select board next week.

IV. Money

A. Sue Shea got a tax bill. Val will keep track of monetary things and find out if the town did pay in full . The committee made a motion to authorize to have the tax payment to be transferred after April 1st.

B. Dina moved to reimburse/(Susan seconded) Val Stori for \$112 for purchase of field guides and moved to increase the amount authorized from \$100 to \$112. The books included tree Identification, winter weeds, wild flower, mushroom etc. They all have book plates in the front thanking the committee and are kept in the Blake Memorial Library. All in favor. Passed.

V. Snowshoes. Dina explored with the Waits River School whether they have snow shoes. Fawn Carter the P.E. teacher would welcome some. The school wellness program had written a grant for snowshoes but was denied because snowshoes leave the school building. Equipment grants need some control over the equipment. Val will check out what grants may be available. There was some discussion about wear and tear of the equipment and responsibility for it. Talking to Lenny's shoes was mentioned as a possible contributor. Val and Dina will pursue other commercial options. Dina will talk to Carlotta the teacher at Waits River and Val will talk to Rivendell School and VerShare to find out where they got their snowshoes.

VI. An important agenda item came up last: The vision, the mission of the Town Forest Val had asked for written beginning thoughts to lead off discussion on "Imagine the Forest in the year 2035. What will it look like?" Dina asked for more clarification of what Val wanted. Wendy and Val had each prepared a statement. Dina asked for those to be emailed to the committee. This item will be moved to the April agenda.

Frank moved to adjourn at 8:10. Susan Seconded. All agreed.
Respectfully submitted,

Dina DuBois