

F.X Shea Town Forest Committee Meeting April 20, 2015 Corinth Town Hall Present: Committee Members
Val Stori, Frank Roderick, Kevin Eaton, Dina DuBois Guests: Ginny Barlow, Dave Paganelli
Meeting called to order by Kevin Eaton 7:05 PM

- I. **Add/change agenda.** Poet Tree Path dates, debrief sign posting
- II. **Action on Minutes.** Change spelling of Paganelli to Paganelli. Frank moved to accept corrected minutes. Courtney seconded. All in favor.
- III. **Poet Tree Path dates.** May 11-15 are suggested dates to convey to the school principal for the third graders to come have the poem scavenger hunt.
- IV. **Forest Management plan** with Dave Paganelli County Forester. Dave sees the draft plan as a comprehensive stewardship plan that outlines what the town wants, values and desires for the use of the forest. The current use plan done for Sue Shea, the prior owner of the forest, has a more aggressive timber cutting plan than the committee plans for the town forest. Corinth doesn't own the forest as a primary source of revenue. He recommends reducing the plan to "C" level" leaving more trees and a diverse species mix. Rebuilding the forest floor and have a higher stocking level of 85-80 not 60. Leave some forest area unmanaged...like the rocky cliffs. And still have a nice productive forest. Maybe 70 acres that is managed. He recommends if there is a harvest to treat it all at once, not 20 acres here and then 20 acres there another year. Don't rush to cut just because a tree has reached the cutting diameter. This is a "juvenile forest not near its potential. Over several decades it might produce 5,000-6,000 board feet per acre. This is a bank account that grows in value as well as providing habitat. He points out that horses can only pull out smaller trees. Girdling trees was discussed but might make a danger for falling. If big better to drop them. Firewood harvesting was brought up by Ginny Barlow, the town Tree Warden. The committee in the past had decided against that as being difficult to bring wood out and deciding how to distribute it fairly. Dave recommends that when a harvesting is done, the logger has been paid, that then there could be wood to distribute for free? For a reduced fee? By lottery? Dave Courtney, and Ginny agreed to walk the forest to assess its value and say if it is too early to cut. Dave said that is part of his role as county forester. Also that he would be willing to guide the public discussion of the management plan when that time comes. He warned again that harvesting makes real damage to width of trails. Since most trails now are former logging roads perhaps that is not too large a concern. Tuesday May 5 they agreed to meet at Town Hall to do this assessment.
- V. **Signs.** There are two more to put up on the blue trail. At the zig/zag. One more sign needs to be made.(ORANGE 5 and an arrow). Dina will ask Dan if he is willing to rout it. Dina will paint.
- VI. **VI.** Maps for kiosk. Committee approved the map and directions card for Dina to have printed at CopyWorld. "24 x 36" laminated maps will be made. Perhaps a banner also. Dina will price the laminated maps and banner map. She will have 100 copies made of the postcard for the kiosk. Val will make up a map, information 3 fold poster to use at the kiosk. Also will make a pages for signing in at the forest kiosk. Kevin will put up the kiosk box. Dina will find a notebook to put there.
- VII. **Storywalk.** Val presented a detailed description of the storywalk plan that she will submit for grant funding. It includes money for a story teller at walk launch, library director in kind hours, Wild Story Teller coordinator. Materials for supporting activities and publicity. The total is \$3,843.28. The stories would change every 6-8 weeks. There would be three Wild Story walks to begin. Other story walk books can be borrowed from the Kellogg Hubbard library in Montpelier.
- VIII. **Next meeting May 18 at 7:00 at Town Hall.** *The agenda:* Action on minutes, Events, woods walk with foresters, Storywalk discussion, Management plan. List use. Frank moved to adjourn at 9:35. Courtney seconded. All in favor.
- IX. Respectfully submitted, Dina DuBois