

Sherborn Town Forest Committee

Minutes of April 19, 2022 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dave Kileen at 5:18 PM.

PRESENT: members Dave Kileen, Sam VanBlarcom, Stephan Petty; associate member Peg Robinson, citizen Kelly McClintock.

OLD BUSINESS: Kelly McClintock pointed out that the Open Space Committee needs the Town Forest Committee to confirm a representative to the Open Space Committee. Steve made a motion that Dave Kileen be appointed, Sam seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Dave Kileen suggested that a tribute be made to Betty Dowse and Bob Ambos for their years of service to the Town Forest Committee. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved.

Steve updated the Committee regarding the ongoing attempts with Sherborn Conservation Committee to renovate the existing parking area on North Main Street. A NOI is being filed to try and keep this moving forward.

The existing forest plan of the land between North Main Street, Hunting Lane, and Prospect Street was reviewed. The plan to selectively cut mature trees in the Prospect Street area was discussed. The harvesting of the mature trees will provide more light on the forest floor and promote new growth which is much needed. It was also discussed that we should consider having a forestry plan for the Town Forest between Pine Hill and the Lake Street cell tower. Funding for this might be available from DCR.

The firewood program, though not as productive as the prior year due to Covid, is alive and well. The crew is scheduled to start up again this Friday after a brief winter break.

Sam reported that the trails are in good shape and the damage this year has not been as bad as last year.

The Committee discussed the problem of unleashed dogs in town especially the number of dogs brought to the Forest by professional dog walkers. Dogs are released, unleashed on to the trails. Discussion ranged from rules requiring all dogs to be leashed at all times in Town Forest to not allow professional dog walkers in Town Forest. It was decided to table the discussion until the next meeting.

Dave informed the Committee that the DPW has a new gate to be installed at our North Main Street parking area to close off the trail to motor vehicles beyond the parking area.

A meeting schedule was discussed. It was decided that the Committee will meet the 3rd Thursday of the month at 5:15 pm as needed.

NEW BUSINESS: The need of Kiosks was discussed and decided one was needed at the North Main Street parking area. It should be large enough to display a map of the Town Forest Trails and other needed information. The Kiosk will match others in style.

Meeting adjourned at 6:02pm