

**Town Forest Committee
Minutes
October 15, 2014**

Present: Sue Barnett, Paul Doucette, Shirley Smith, Bill Dakai

The meeting was called to order at 2:15 PM. Sue made a motion to accept the minutes from July 11, 2014. Paul seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion passed.

Map of Sensitive Areas

Public Archeology Laboratory (PAL) had sent out a map with archeologically sensitive areas that included all of the historical sites. The Taft Saw and Shingle Mill, the Granite Quarry, and some foundations were considered high post-contact and moderate pre-contact. Auger cores locations were also marked. Bill explained that these were to find evidence of particles from making arrow heads. There was some discussion on whether or not proposed parking lot was too close to a sensitive area. There appeared to be road on the map that led from Millville Road to the Big Wall but Paul said it was a logging road.

Full Report

Shirley said she had been informed that the full report would be ready by the end of the day. Committee members were hopeful that this report would answer all of their questions.

Next Steps for Grant Approval

Shirley read a message from Amanda Lewis of DCR that she needs a letter from Jonathan Patton stating the Mass Historical determination for the project to facilitate quicker approval. Deborah Cox, President of Pal had told Shirley that she and Suzanne Cherau would be meeting with Jonathan to discuss the findings in their report. They will make recommendations for avoiding ground disturbance in sensitive areas.

Tower Road Discontinuance

The public hearing on this had concluded and the Planning Board voted to approve the discontinuance of that part of Tower Road within the boundaries of the Town Forest. Shirley said it was on the warrant for the November 5th Special Town Meeting.

Easement Deed

The two previous problems with the deed had been satisfactorily resolved but Town Counsel was still concerned about the insurance. Bill had called attention to MGL Chapter21 Section 17C that said persons permitting the public to use land for recreational purposes would not be liable for personal injuries or property damage. The easement deed was also on the warrant for Town Meeting. Town Council had inserted the modifier “walking” in front of “trail.” This met with objections from the committee as it would prohibit jogging and mountain biking and was unacceptable. Shirley said she could propose an amendment on Town Meeting floor to remove the word “walking.”

Sue made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Paul seconded the motion. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Shirley Smith