

Town Forest Committee
1/7/14

Present: Sue Barnett, Peter Brewer, Paul Doucette, Shirley Smith, Dick Skinner

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 AM. Sue made a motion to approve the minutes

from November 18, 2013. Paul seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Annual Report

The committee reviewed the annual report that is required by the Town. It was decided that, in the paragraph describing activities in the Forest land during the late 1880's and early 1900's, the word "manufacturing" should be modified by the word "lumber."

Trail Map

The committee went over the items that would be included on the trail map brochure with Bill. Side one would have the map along with the uses for the various trails, the length of the trails and the degree of difficulty. Connections to Cormier Woods and Meadow Brook Woods could also be shown. Side two would have the Rules of Use and a brief history of the Town Forest.

Shirley passed out copies of the history. A paragraph at the end informed readers that of the brochures for each of the historical sites were available in the kiosks.

The Rules of Use the committee decided to adopt are as follows:

1. No motorized vehicles except for official use. Prohibited vehicles include All Terrain and Off Road Vehicles, motorcycles and snow mobiles. Violators are subject to confiscation and fines in accordance with MGL Chapter 202, An Act Regulating the Use of Off-Highway and Recreational Vehicles.
2. Dogs must be leashed at all times.
3. Trash dumping is prohibited-if you carry it in, you must carry it out.
4. Cutting or removal of trees or vegetative damage is prohibited.
5. Outdoor fires and overnight camping are prohibited.
6. Do not feed the wildlife.

The committee decided that the Hours of Use and No Motorized Vehicles should be posted on a sign at the entrances. Warning signs should also be posted during hunting season.

Additional rules pertained to meeting horses on the trail:

1. Never surprise a horse on the trail. This could frighten the horse and lead to an accident.
2. If you are approaching a horse and rider travelling in the opposite direction, **stop**.
3. If you are approaching a horse and rider from the rear direction, **announce yourself. Stand and wait for instructions from the rider.**

It was suggested that a triangular YIELD sign could be utilized.

Glacial Erratic Brochure

The committee discussed the spectacular and immense glacial erratic deposits from the last ice age. Shirley commented on the one near the zoo parking lot and Bill said that there was an even larger one within the Forest. These could provide an educational opportunity for local school children. Bill agreed to take some photographs to use in a brochure.

Massachusetts Historical Commission

Shirley read from a letter she had received from Jonathan Patton. He requested existing conditions photographs of the proposed parking area. He said it should be keyed to an aerial photograph showing the project area in relation to historic features such as the observation tower and dance hall. He also recommended that a power auger not be used to erect signs near the 11 points of historical interest as this could impact potentially significant archeological resources.

Dick Skinner brought up a concern about a tree near Memorial Field that had fallen but was caught up by another tree. This created a dangerous situation. He thought we may have jurisdiction over this. Since we do not, he was advised to contact the Tree Warden.

Sue made a motion to adjourn and Paul seconded the motion. All were in favor and the

meeting adjourned at 11:25 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Smith