

MENDON TOWN FOREST minutes of April 8, 2015

Present: Sue Barnett, Bill Dakai, Paul Doucette, Peter Brewer

Meeting called to order at 1005. There were no prior minutes available to be read.

Read over proposed "Use of Recreational Trails and Associated Areas", provided by Anne Mazar and found them to be satisfactory. Bill will contact Anne to let her know.

Bill proposed and read aloud a "Memorandum of Agreement" (MOU) with the Blackstone Valley Chapter of New England Mountain Biking Association (NEMBA) for ongoing trail maintenance. Sue motioned to accept, Paul seconded, and it was approved unanimously. Will now forward to A. Mazar and NEMBA for approval. Bill volunteered to be the point of contact person (POC) for the Town Forest committee.

We discussed the relocation site for the parking lot at the end of Tower Road. Bill mentioned that he did speak with Howard Phipps, Tree Warden, regarding the need to cut down trees. He gave his consent but we were concerned that we may need more formal permission and perhaps even permits. Sue is to pursue this with the appropriate town board/commission. It was also noted that construction of the parking lot will have to go out to bid.

Bill read communications between the Massachusetts Historical Society and Shirley Smith regarding positioning of above parking lot, kiosks, gates, signage, trails, etc. to minimize impact on sensitive areas. The gate locations we had originally planned to erect will not be possible per Mass Historical. We may consider erecting one at entrance near Woods Road and Asylum Street.

Discussed kiosks: Bill suggested we mimic the one at Cormier Woods and it was agreed. Discussed whether to use glass, plexiglass, polycarbonate. We looked at a metal zoo sign and thought we might use them on the kiosks instead of paper (map and information on the historical sites) under glass. We also discussed same metal signs at each site and how we would mount them given poles are disallowed. Peter volunteered use of his printer contact should we go that route.

Discussed brochures: It was suggested that Paul, as a member of the Historical Commission, coordinate what to put on them re: history and points of interest. Peter suggested we could his printers for that as well.

We then voted unanimously to name the forest after Shirley, no discussion required. Sue motioned, Paul seconded and it was unanimously approved to name it - "Shirley Smith Memorial Town Forest".

It was agreed to meet again in about a month. Meeting adjourned at 1120.