

**Town Forest Committee  
Minutes  
March 21, 2014**

**Present:** Peter Brewer, Paul Doucette, Shirley Smith

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 AM. Peter made a motion to approve the minutes from January 7, 2014. Paul seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**Recreational Trails and Associated Areas By-Law**

This is the seventh draft of a by-law that was first suggested by Kevin Rudden and the Land Use Committee. The purpose of the by-law is to permit the Town of Mendon to ensure and enforce the proper use of the trails and associated areas on Town owned lands. The by-law includes prohibitions on motorized vehicles, use of alcohol, fires, and littering and restricts use to the hours between sunrise and sunset. The committee approved of the by-law and Shirley said her committee would see that it was on the warrant for the June Special Town Meeting.

**Revised Town Forest Rules of Use**

The committee reviewed a revised version of the Rules of Use based on those in the by-law but in an abbreviated form:

1. The use of Town Forest Trails and their Associated Areas is restricted to the hours from sunrise to sunset.
2. Motorized vehicles, except for official use, are prohibited. 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.
3. Dogs must be leashed or kept in sight and under voice control at all times.
4. Trash dumping and littering are prohibited. If you carry it in, you must carry it out.
5. Cutting or removal of trees or vegetative damage is prohibited.
6. Outdoor fires and overnight camping are prohibited.
7. No person shall have in his possession or be under the influence of intoxicating liquors, drugs, or narcotics.
8. The use of metal detectors, except in the case of authorized archeological activities, is prohibited.
9. Care must be taken when approaching a horse and rider on the trail. If said horse and rider are traveling in the opposite direction, stand and allow the horse and rider to pass. When approaching a horse from the rear, announce yourself and wait for instructions from the rider.
10. Feeding and/or harassment of wildlife are prohibited.

Violations shall be punished by a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for the first offense and two hundred fifty-dollars (\$250.00) for each subsequent offense.

Peter made a motion to accept this version. Paul seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

### **Town Forest Web Page**

Shirley passed out copies of the Town Forest home page from Mendon's new Virtual Town Hall website. It included the minutes from past meetings, members, and links to the annual report, hunting prohibitions, granite quarrying, off highway vehicles and Town Forest connections. After subsequent training, Shirley said she would upload Paul's history and pictures of historic sites as a slide show. The website would be available to the public on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Southwick Easement Warrant Article**

The committee had planned to have the easement on the Annual Town Meeting but the assessor's office had noticed on the map Bill had provided that a small section of the trail passed though Peter's private property. Peter said he would add this to the easement. It would be too late for the annual but can go on the warrant for the June Special Town Meeting.

### **Brochure on Glacial Erratics**

The committee reviewed the first draft of educational information on glacial erratics, the huge rocks that had been deposited by receding glaciers 15,000 years ago, for the brochure. Bill would like to get an accurate count of the glacial erratics found in the forest, especially those that had been quarried for granite. He would also take pictures.

### **Fish and Wildlife Hunting Prohibitions**

The committee reviewed the hunting prohibitions and eliminated several that did not apply to the Town Forest.

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shirley Smith