

Duxbury Town Forest Committee Meeting Minutes
February 1, 2018

Town Forest Committee Members Present	Peter Diccico, Graham Leitner, Monique McHenry, Matt Muir, Zeb Towne, Jesse Rufenacht
Attendees	Erin Lander
Minutes Prepared By	Jesse Rufenacht
Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 6:41 by Monique M.
Introductions	Committee members made brief introductions for those that were not present last meeting

Changes to the Agenda

Discussion	None
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Public Comment

Discussion	None
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Approval of Minutes from 11/2/17 meeting

Discussion	Monique M. moved to approve the minutes without any amendments. Jesse R. seconded. All in favor.
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Site Walk Report

Discussion	Peter D. summarized the walk of the town forest that occurred after the initial meeting in December. A group of committee members (Peter D., Kalev F., Jesse R.) along with Alan Quackenbush of the Duxbury Land Trust and two other town residents walked the perimeter of the town forest, marked the borders and gained an understanding of the lay of the land.
Conclusions	There will be another public walk of the town forest done in the spring.

Budget Request

Discussion	<p>Monique M. informed the committee that it is too late to put together a specific budget request for the town report and for town meeting. However, the town clerk did include a \$1,000 budget line to be included in the proposed town budget.</p> <p>The two primary uses of a potential budget that were discussed were for creating a turn around for cars/plow and for brush hogging a portion of the land.</p> <p>Matt M. informed the committee that Adam Magee (Highway Foreman) would need to classify the access road from the end of Hart Rd as a class 3 road to create a turn around.</p> <p>There was discussion of where the best point of access would be relative to cost and impact to adjacent land owners. The two options discussed were the road at the end of Hart Rd. and the gated parking area off of river road that was created by Velco and runs through the state farm land and through Dale Franklin's land.</p> <p>Zeb T. mentioned the possibility of generating a budget for the town forest from leasing the land for logging or sugaring.</p>
Conclusion	<p>The only budget request for this year will be the \$1,000 line item.</p> <p>In 2018 the committee will gather more specific information about potential costs so as to create a more detailed budget request at town meeting of 2019.</p> <p>The committee will research grants that could provide us with a budget if the town votes to not provide the committee with a budget.</p> <p>Research will be done regarding the two potential access points to the town forest.</p>

Forest Management Plan

Discussion	<p>Peter D. reported that he spoke to the Washington County Forester about assisting the committee in creating a forest management plan. Dan Singleton, the WC forester is willing to attend a Duxbury Town Forest Committee Meeting to guide us in the creation of a forest management plan but cannot create one himself.</p> <p>Grahm L. reported that a management plan would likely cost between \$1,500-\$7,000.</p> <p>The Audubon Society was brought up as a potential resource for creating data to be included in the management plan.</p> <p>Discussion was had as to whether we could have a state timber assessment done on the land to include in the management plan.</p>
Conclusion	<p>Creating a forest management plan should be the main prerogative of the committee. Further discussion towards the creation of the management plan will occur in subsequent meetings after we know whether or not the town votes to provide us with a budget.</p> <p>We will reach to Dan Singleton about attending a meeting but not until we have a better understanding of our next steps.</p>

Letter for Town Report

Discussion	<p>Grahm L. shared a letter that he composed to be included in the town report to introduce town residents to the Town Forest Committee.</p> <p>Grahm L. noted that it is too late to have the letter included in the town report but that we can have it available for residents at town meeting.</p> <p>Discussion was had about including a brief survey along with the letter for residents at town meeting to gauge resident's interest in how the land should be used and whether or not they would be willing to fund a budget for the committee.</p> <p>The committee read through the letter and made edits.</p>
Conclusion	<p>The letter along with a brief survey will be made available for residents at town meeting.</p>
Actionables	<p>Monique M. will compose a brief survey and share it with the committee for editing prior to town meeting.</p> <p>Grahm L. will make edits to committee introduction letter.</p>

Hunting Stands and Blinds

Discussion	Matt M. reported that he spoke with the game warden about the legality of hunting stands and blinds. The state does not enforce laws on town land.
Conclusion	This should be detailed in the forest management plan.

Determine Next Steps

Discussion	Most urgent order of business is having the committee's introduction and survey available for residents at town meeting. Next meeting will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of the results from the survey given at town meeting. - Reassess options given our funding or lack thereof. - Continue discussion of Forest Management Plan with consideration of available funds. - Reports from all actionables.
Next Meeting	Thursday March 22, 2018 at 6:30pm Town Garage Meeting Room
Actionables	Monique M. will contact Maureen to reserve the room for the next meeting Zeb T. and Monique M. will arrange to get a key from Maureen.
Adjournment	Jesse R. made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Monique M. seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:52pm