

DRAFT  
**Duxbury Town Forest Committee Meeting Minutes**  
September 5,, 2019

<i>Town Forest Committee Members Present</i>	Kalev Freeman, Grahm Leitner, Monique McHenry, Matt Muir, Jesse Rufenacht
<i>Attendees</i>	Mari Pratt, Dan Singleton
<i>Minutes Prepared By</i>	Jesse Rufenacht
<i>Call to Order</i>	The meeting was called to order at 6:34 by Monique M. Matt M. 2nd
<i>Introductions</i>	None

**Changes to the Agenda**

<i>Discussion</i>	Addition of minutes approval from prior meeting
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**Public Comment**

<i>Discussion</i>	None
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**Approval of minutes from previous two meetings**

<i>Discussion</i>	Jesse R. motioned to approve the minutes from the meeting on 7/10/19. Matt M.. seconded. All in favor.
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**Discussion with Dan Singleton (Washington County State Forester) about Forest Management Plan**

<i>Discussion</i>	<p>Dan had 2 interns complete an inventory of the forest. He has all the data and will complete analysis of the management units that they inventoried. He will get up to the forest at some point to take field notes as the interns did not take many.</p> <p>This data will be used to support any forest management decisions and narrow options for how to utilize the forest provided that it makes sense and with consult from the Duxbury Land Trust.</p> <p>Dan would like to know how long the forest management plan is being written for (10 years, 20 years, etc.) as well as more information about the goals for the forest and historical information pertaining to the forest.</p> <p>Dan has encouraged the DTFC to maintain close communication with the Duxbury Land Trust as we proceed with our goals for the forest. Decisions must be approved by the land trust and we don't want to waste time and energy creating documentation that is not going to get the approval of the Land Trust.</p> <p>Discussion was had about contacting the Audubon Society for a bird survey</p>
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	<p>that would be included in the management plan.</p> <p>Discussion was had about what to do with any revenue that the forest may potentially create in the future. Does it go into the DTF's budget? Does it go back into the town's general fund? This will be revisited later.</p>
<i>Conclusion</i>	<p>As Dan proceeds with his analysis of the inventory, the committee should finalize the objectives and goals of the forest for the management plan as well as information for the management plan concerning: <i>history of the forest, wildlife, water/soil/resources, existing trails, recreational history, the formation of the committee, ACT 250 and opportunities for public commentary that have been provided.</i> Dan will basically create the <i>Forest</i> part of the the FMP but we need to create the informational pieces as well as the goal pieces. He will help us format it once all those pieces have been created.</p> <p>Dan will send along some exemplars of other forest management plans to provide a better understanding of how to format the final document.</p>
<i>Actionables</i>	<p><b>Graham L.</b> will touch base with Alan Quackenbush and the Duxbury Land Trust about their expectations are of the forest.</p> <p><b>Graham L.</b> will contact Steve Hagenbough at the Audubon Society.</p> <p><b>Graham L.</b> will work on putting together a piece of writing for the FMP concerning the ecology of the forest.</p> <p><b>Jesse R.</b> will search through documentation about the forest for any historical information that may already exist and be available for use in the management plan.</p> <p><b>Matt M.</b> will look at exemplars of other FMPs to better understand how we should ideally format our document.</p>

### Update on the Road Condition

<i>Discussion</i>	<p>Kalev F. spoke with the road commissioner about the severe washouts of the road beyond the gate at the top of Hart Road.</p>
<i>Conclusions</i>	<p>The road commissioner said they would be able to give us an assessment of the road but that they are unable at the moment to do anything about it as they have too many current road projects they are working on.</p> <p>However, it is in the best interest of the DTF to have repairs done to the road prior to the winter and before further damage occurs.</p>
<i>Actionables</i>	<p><b>Kalev F.</b> will attend a future selectboard meeting to present a case to the selectboard for repairing this portion of the access road.</p>

### Brush Hogging

<i>Discussion</i>	<p>Carol Senning (a neighboring land owner) told Kalev F. that the committee can use her land for accessing the DTF for brush hogging.</p>
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<i>Conclusion</i>	We will speak with Josh Senning (neighboring land owner) first about brush hogging the land. If he is unable to provide this service we will reach out to Dustin Mable. The brush hogging should occur in October but first we need the Duxbury Land Trust to mark the space to be cleared.
<i>Actionables</i>	Alan Quackenbush and the Duxbury Land Trust need to be asked to mark the land for clearing.

### **Survey of town interest in the DTF**

<i>Discussion</i>	We have received 20 responses to the most recent survey.
<i>Conclusion</i>	<p>The majority of respondents said they are likely to visit the town forest. Recreation was the #1 purpose of interest for respondents followed next by conservation and hunting.</p> <p>Regarding trails, people are most interested in walking and hiking trails. There is some interest in mountain biking trails.</p> <p>This information will be taken into consideration when finalizing goals and objectives of the town forest.</p>
<i>Actionables</i>	N/A

### **Determine Next Steps**

<i>Discussion</i>	<p>As Dan S. continues his analyses of the forest inventory the committee will finalize the other portions of the management plan (historical and existing info about the forest and goals/objectives of the forest). The focus of the next meeting will be getting this information formatted properly for the management plan and then sending it along to Dan S.</p> <p>A decision about brush hogging will have been made so that it can be completed in October.</p> <p>Conversation with the selectboard and road commissioner about repairing the access road will be reported on.</p> <p>We need to have any budget request for the coming year to the selectboard by December.</p>
<i>Next Meeting</i>	<p>Date: Thursday October 17 @ 6:30 pm</p> <p>Location: Duxbury Town Garage Meeting Room.</p>
<i>Adjournment</i>	Jesse R. made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Matt M. seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:03pm.