

Minutes of the Forest and Trails Committee  
Town of Conway,  
February 2, 2023  
6:30 pm Zoom

Present:

Members: Marilyn Webster, Deb Donaldson, Priscilla Lynch, Suzanne Artemieff, Courtney Gilligan

Associate Members: Cynthia Lawton-Singer

Invited Guests: Jaime Jackman (Conway Grammar School 6th grade teacher), Andrew Randazzo (Audubon Forest Ecologist)

Called to order, 6:38 pm by Deb.

Minutes of December 28 with minor correction were unanimously approved.

Status update and next steps of Fournier Guided Trail were discussed:

- Given lack of response from Ohketeau after repeated attempts to schedule meeting, it was agreed that Jaime will reach out to the Nolumbeka Project
- Jaime has set a deadline of April 30 for completion of website content but feels native input is necessary
- Jaime will ask the 1st grade teacher, Jennifer Wheeler, if she would like to post any of her students' Poetry on the website
- Deb displayed a sample of how the signs will be mounted with 6th grade students' help once the ground thaws

Andrew provided an update on the Forest Climate Resilience Program and next steps we're discussed:

- Rowe MVP grant application was only partially funded, so the operational funding for the Rowe and North Adams forest demonstrations that was omitted will be pursued through Woodlands Partnership
- Input into the vision for a virtual forest center will be sought at a meeting on Feb. 27 at 7 pm. The center is to support both municipalities and private landowners with resources, story maps and information from Ohketeau regarding treaties and land rights.
- Committee expressed the desire for Ohketeau participation in a woodlands walk here
- There was a lively discussion around Andrew's suggestion of a "targeted" harvest that could simultaneously increase forest resilience and provide resources that would be utilized by indigenous people
- Andrew will send practice manuals
- Next steps: set date for woodlands walk and put in writing Committee's priorities for implementation of goals in forest stewardship plans

Deb provided update on possible project of replacing failing culverts with bridges:

- Courtney will ask Audrey about person to contact at FRCOG
- The old logging roads are considered Conway roads, but adjacent lands are comprised of state, Town and privately owned parcels
- Deb had productive conversation with manager from Cows
- Short discussion of whether roads with failing culverts should be closed or have gates installed to prevent unauthorized vehicle access

Next Meetings:

February 22, 6:30 pm

March 22, 6:30 pm

Meeting adjourned 8:11 pm