

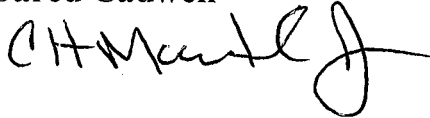
Fayston SB Minutes ⁸ 3.17.21
Boyce Hill Town Forest Site Visit
5 p.m.

SB Members Present: Chuck Martel, Mike Jordan, Jared Cadwell
Public Present: Lisa Koitzsch, Ky Koitzsch, John Hammond, Darlene McCormick, Woody Dugan, Wendy Bridgewater, Ben Bridgewater, Sally Dwyer, Janet Saylor, Judy Gates, Ned Kelley

- 1) Meeting called to order at 5 p.m.
- 2) Lisa K. reviewed the Natural Resources Inventory Map with those present. Identified key wetland, seepage and vernal pools. Also identified location of Saylor's spring, farm cellar and livestock stonewall pens.
- 3) SB (Selectboard) Members and public hiked most of the parcel with eyes on potential buffered areas (seepages, wetlands, water courses, vernal pools, abutters concerns). Woody Dugan pointed out the areas that were mowed last year and areas that are high priority and acceptable for mowing this fall.
- 4) The BHTF (Boyce Hill Town Forest) members present; Woody Dugan, Chuck Martel, Sally Dwyer, and Lisa Koitzsch will report to their committee colleagues about specific findings of the visit. Suggestion was made at the conclusion of the walk to stake w/ survey tape the buffered areas.
- 5) John Hammond/Sugarbush indicated that Sugarbush would be able to contribute up to five days of mowing. Estimated availability is sometime in September/early October. The Town would barter with its sidearm mower's use at the Mt Ellen. The SB will also contribute the Road Crew's use of the town's sidearm mower for specific portions of the BHTF mowing.
- 6) Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

for Jared Cadwell



Observations during Selectboard site visit to BHTF on 8/17/21

Streams/wetlands/vernal pools-

The streams and wetlands identified by Lisa K on the pre-walk map were viewed/discussed by the group, with the exception of the large area just south of the pond. Time did not allow a thorough discussion of this section. It appears that a 50' buffer can easily be maintained around/along those areas. There was discussion of possibly requiring 400' buffers around certain vernal pools, which seems unreasonable. The stream in the NW corner of the lot appears to be able to accommodate a trail (and mowing) outside the 50' buffer to the West, and the hillside to the East could also be mowed. The wetland along the Eastern border extends quite a distance, and a buffer should be maintained along its length. The area in the SE corner, bordering the Saylor property (below the apple orchard), was described as wet and should probably not be mowed.

There was discussion as to whether the man-made ditch in the center of the property should be treated the same as a natural stream (with buffers). It was described as a seasonal stream.

Neighbor relations-

Three areas were discussed in terms of neighbor relations: 1) Bisbees in the NE corner; Saylor's in the SE corner; and neighbors near the pond.

Bisbees- It was suggested that an area not be mowed near the entrance to the trail that goes on Bisbee property. Maybe pile logs or rocks at the entrance to discourage hikers. Signs are also possible.

Saylor's- Leave a buffer of unmowed land along the border of the Saylor property to discourage wanderers. It appears to be wet in that area anyway, so probably not appropriate to mow.

Pond neighbors- This is a difficult one. Mowing around the pond maintains the structural integrity of the berm, while allowing more visitors access to the waterfront (spreading them out). The downside is that it brings more people along the edge where trails lead to neighboring property. We feel that in the short term, better signage could be used (including neighbor provided) before ceasing of mowing that area.

Pond-

Work should continue to remove trees and other growth that could impact the structural integrity of the pond. Over time a spillway should be created at the lower end, that would protect erosion or destruction of the berm in a major rain event.

Apple Orchard-

Should be mowed to protect the apple trees.

Views-

Overall, we feel the views have degraded substantially. The expansive views (uphill) that existed when entering the property are all but gone. Much of this growth is only 1-2 years old. The views while walking up/down the road/trail have also degraded. It is hard to describe specifics here without a map, but care should be taken to remove alders and small birch that are growing up along the road/trail on both sides, selectively cut clumps of trees on the downhill side that are already impacting views, and mow more intensively (especially in the area surrounded by the road/trail). It was also suggested by John Hammond that possible 50-75' wide openings could be cut at the outer edge of the new growth of the top meadow - looking west toward the Green Mts.

In general, it appears that more areas are moving toward being "irrecoverable" from a "view" perspective, which causes concern in the light of the fact that the "view" is what most of the users of the property want to preserve. Maybe more area needs to be cleared/mowed this year, if it can be done within the number of days allotted by Sugarbush to use their equipment. What harm will be done if

more is mowed than less? It can recover if that is deemed appropriate in the final management plan.

Once the final mowing plan is presented by the Steering Committee, we recommend that the areas be flagged and/or mapped to ensure that protected areas are not breached.