

## 2011 TOWN FOREST REPORT

Our spring meeting and trash pick up was held May 8<sup>th</sup>, attended by Jim Fitch, Ed Woodbury, Frank Parks and Ginny Prince.

Thank you to more than 50 people who completed forest surveys. These will provide valuable input for management plan, which is up for review this year. A preliminary meeting is planned for this spring and the public is warmly encouraged to participate. This is an opportunity to decide whether to alter permitted activities in the town forest including acreage open to logging. The management plan is posted on the town website. [www.cornishnh.net/](http://www.cornishnh.net/) in the Community Connections section.

Town forest and conservation committee members met with UNH cooperative extension staff several times to discuss invasive plant issues. Karen Bennet of the extension service held a very practical and interesting discussion of invasives and pests on Oct 8. She discussed general issues as well as going over possible ways to deal with the Cornish town forest situation.

Kate and Doug Freeland, Ed Woodbury, Jim Fitch, Jim Osterlund, Doug Miller, Molly Housman and Ginny Prince, all of Cornish, Norm Berman and Robin Liston of Plainfield and Rob Terry of Windsor attended the Nov 5 workday. We accomplished our goals of repairing water bars on Root Hill, cleaning ditches on the loop road, maintaining the view clearing and building a ski bridge on the loop road.

The trails were in excellent shape again this year and all but the blue have now been remarked with plastic disks. Ginny mowed the loop road and associated clearings and desired trees such as apple and spruce were released in conjunction with trail work. A timber harvest may be carried out when conditions and wood prices allow. The harvest would include clean up of the blow down along Root Hill Rd and thinning of the areas which are currently designated for commercial timber management in the management plan.

Paul Gagnon of SPNHF, which holds the easement to the town forest, visited the forest to monitor the boundaries and state of the property. His very positive report concluded with "Thank you so much for being such fantastic land stewards!"

The town forest continues to be very popular for hunting, mountain biking, hiking, snowshoeing and skiing. Maps are posted near the start of each trail and are also available on the trail from Tandy Brook Rd., at the town office, online in the appendix of the management plan or by contacting Ginny Prince. In addition the Eagles Ledge lean-to is available for anyone to use.

As in past years, the town forest budget includes no tax money. State law requires that spending any funds, donation or payment or otherwise, must be authorized in the warrant, so the committee is requesting permission to spend up to \$1500 for trail marking materials and other miscellaneous items for repair and construction of signs, bridges, gates etc.

For more information, if you're interested in youth or community projects or to share thoughts about the town forest contact any committee member:

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