

2014 TOWN FOREST REPORT

The traditional spring meeting and roadside clean up took place on April 26. Doug Miller, Jim Fitch, Steve Wilke, Ed Woodbury and Ginny Prince attended. Topics discussed included forest inventory, invasive plants, progress on the Valley Quest, potential summer activities and ways to control damage from motor vehicles.

On May 21 Ginny and Steve met with our county forester Glen Gladders to discuss inventorying the town forest; a daunting task. We toured the forest while doing this.

August 8 was the date of the summer meeting. Karl Brewer, Doug Freeland, Ed and Ginny discussed the ATV issue, the forest inventory, and progress on the new trail and the fall workday. We clipped invasive plants, cleaned drainage ditches on the loop road and blocked motor vehicle access to last years' party spot.

On Oct 12 Patrick Clancy, Daniel and Bill Palmer, Ed and Ginny met for the fall meeting and very successful workday. We clipped invasive buckthorn and barberry, cleared low brush at the lookout and hiked the tentative layout of the new trail. The next day Jim Fitch and Ginny placed a "band aid" of hemlock boards over the weak spots in the culvert on Root Hill Rd. Later in the fall Ginny worked on buckthorn (both species) on the power line, cutting it and applying triclopyr to the cut stumps.

Ginny has taken on maintenance of the forest webpage on the town website. Visit for info about the town forest, current events, maps, the management plan and a photo gallery.

Many anonymous friends of the forest perform trail maintenance throughout the year. As a result the trails were in excellent shape once again. Loop road maintenance and release of desired trees such as apple and spruce was performed as usual.

The 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 at the town office and online on the newly updated webpage. The Eagles Ledge lean-to is available for anyone to use. Check out the many great entries in the logbook at the lookout!

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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