

2015 TOWN FOREST REPORT

The spring meeting and roadside clean up was attended on April 26th by Jim Fitch, Steve Wilke, Ed Woodbury, Bill Palmer, Bill Gallagher and Ginny Prince. Topics discussed included forest inventory, a new trail, invasives, a summer workday, an Eagle Scout project and possible repair of the Root Hill culvert by Bill Lipfert in conjunction with a harvest on his abutting property.

On May 28 Kathy Woodbury's 2nd grade Maple St School class visited the forest and hiked 3 mi.

The June 7th workday saw a major push to clear the new trails. Buffing of the trails continued into the fall by many users. Special thanks for work by Ed, Bill Palmer, Roger Stone and Karl Brewer.

Lucas Roper's Eagle Scout project was the main topic of the summer meeting on Aug 30th. This exciting project consists of making a new map of the town forest starting with GPS mapping and a web friendly format and finishing with trail head information kiosks. Steve Wilkie is assisting with the computerized map making and lent his GPS unit to the project.

At the fall workday on Oct 11 we trimmed edges of the loop road and discussed the culvert at the south end of Root Hill. Our golden opportunity to have Bill Lipfert fix this problem area and make the forest more accessible to cars was sadly stymied because the town of Claremont placed one obstacle after another in the way.

Oct 25, Lucas and a group of scouts and leaders installed the kiosk at the Root Hill Rd entrance. Around 30 people attended the UVLT hike on Nov 7 which toured the Lipferts' newly conserved property as well as hiking to the town forest lookout.

There is a new logbook container at the lookout (a mailbox donated by Nellie and Bill Palmer.) It's fun to read the many entries in the log! Using \$122.62 from the town forest kitty (small donations made over time) we purchased markers for the new trail and hog panels to replace the ageing ash pole gates at the power line entrances to the loop road. These gates along with the gate at the Root Hill entrance are closed when the soil is too soft for motor vehicle and horse travel.

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 was performed as usual. The forest continues to be very popular for hunting, mountain biking, hiking, snowshoeing and skiing. The Eagles Ledge lean-to is available for anyone to use. Visit the town forest webpage on cornishnh.net for info about the town forest, current events, maps, and the management plan.

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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