

## 2017 TOWN FOREST REPORT

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 face book page and the webpage on [cornishnh.net](http://cornishnh.net) for info about the town forest, maps, and the management plan.

27 riders and 4 dogs participated in a bike ride on July 20<sup>th</sup> in memory of a young man, an avid local mountain biker, who died race training at a ski area. A video clip from the ride is posted on the face book page.

The Society for the Protection of NH Forests holds the town forest easement. Paul Gagnon, our easement steward, led a hike through the forest as one of the activities of the Society's annual meeting, which was held in Claremont on Sept 16<sup>th</sup>. We are honored by Paul's complimentary remarks about the multiple use management of our forest, including calling it "...probably the best managed town forest in the state..."

Workdays and meetings included the roadside clean up on April 30<sup>th</sup>; trail work on August 13<sup>th</sup> and an impromptu work party on November 18<sup>th</sup> after the fall windstorm. Thanks to Ed Woodbury, Jim Fitch, Doug Freeland, Karl Brewer and Roger Stone for all their work! Accomplishments included roughing out the rest of the new Gold trail and clearing out around a dozen major blow downs on trails throughout the forest. In addition thanks go to many anonymous friends of the forest who perform trail maintenance throughout the year. Loop road maintenance was performed as usual.

Trail additions include the resurrection of a downhill bike trail on the step section of the power line right of way (Red Flag trail) and the above mentioned Gold Trail extension, which now connects the red trail below the lookout to the low point of the white trail, intersecting the sliver trail midway. A bootleg trail was closed off due to likelihood of severe erosion.

Thank you to the following individuals, businesses and groups for donating synthetic decking and structural materials for bridge replacement projects: Pat Pinkson- Burke, Scout troop 332, Cornish Auto Center, Evan Dybvig Carpentry, Josh Cloud Carpentry, Singing Hills, Bill Palmer and Jim Osterlund.

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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