



R I N E S F O R E S T
A D V I S O R Y
C O M M I T T E E

Rines Forest Advisory Committee
Monday, January 16, 2006
Meeting Minutes

- Present:** Chairman, Bob Waterhouse, Bob Heyner, Bill Richards, Jeff Porter, Sally Stockwell, Lisa Judd, Henry Milburn, Steve Moriarty, John Stroud and Jeff Steinman.
- Absent:** Jennifer West and Tom Hinman.
- Others Present:** William R. Shane, Town Manager and Residents from Idlewood Drive.

Vice Chair, Henry Milburn called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

Jeff Porter was present for the start of the meeting but had to leave to attend another meeting.

Bob Waterhouse and Sally Stockwell arrived shortly after the meeting was called to order.

I. November 21, 2005 - Meeting Minutes Review & Acceptance

Moved by Bob Heyner and Seconded by Bill Richards. The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

II. Rines Property Parking Discussion with Idlewood Residents

Town Manager, Bill Shane presented drawings of two types of parking lots, which showed how much area would be impacted for each type. He said that a parking lot would require Planning Board approval and possibly Board of Appeals approval and then it would require funding from the Town Council.

Jeff Steinman suggested that the shoulder on Range Road be expanded to accommodate parking for the Forest. He added that he has never seen more than three or four cars there at a time and that was during hunting season.

The Committee discussed the possible reconstruction of Range Road and waiting until that time to build a parking lot. Bill Shane thought a reconstruction project would be in about 5 years.

Bob Heyner suggested that since they weren't sure where the parking lot should be located, they should leave the issue alone for now.

Bill Shane stated that since the property is an investment made by the community, the Town has an obligation to promote it and provide parking for those who would like to use it.

There was discussion about how much use the Forest receives at this time. Steve Moriarty reinforced Mr. Shane's point about the investment of the community and that they have an obligation to the public, but he also offered that they do not need to build a parking lot right away.

Allen Kropp of Idlewood Drive recapped some of the residents' concerns regarding the designation of parking on Idlewood Drive and said that the feeling of the residents is still against the proposal.

The Committee and residents talked about the possible entrances to the Forest and whether the number of visitors to the Forest before and after the Town purchased the property has changed noticeably. There was discussion regarding safety when walking along or crossing Range Road, as well as parking off the shoulder by the entrance.

The Committee clarified that according to the easement only one parking lot can be constructed so the dilemma remains as to locating it in the best possible place. Jeff Steinman suggested that the Committee schedule another site walk. Bob Waterhouse asked if there had been any incidents regarding the current parking arrangement and whether the Town is responsible if something were to occur. There have not been any calls regarding problems associated with Rines Forest parking.

The Committee voted unanimously to table the issue for the time being. Bob Waterhouse clarified for the residents of Idlewood that no decision had been made regarding parking for the Rines Forest and said that if the Committee should decide to put up signs directing parking to Idlewood Drive they would discuss the issue again with the residents. Bill Shane explained that the Town Council would have to approve the signs, so there would be a public hearing on the issue if it were to be recommended by the Committee.

III. Management Plan Structure and Review

Bill Shane mentioned that the plan still needed information from Sally Stockwell (Description of Land) and Steve Moriarty (Legal and Regulatory Issues) and briefly reviewed the matrix.

The Committee would review the plan at their next meeting.

IV. Other Business & Future Meetings

The Committee revisited the issue of parking once more at this time. Bill Richards asked if there had been a history of safety concerns. Bill Shane said there had not. Sally Stockwell said her concerns about parking along Range Road began when parking was discontinued by the entrance to Dale Rines' property. She feels strongly that parking should not be encouraged along Range Road. Jeff Steinman reinforced his earlier statement that since hunting season ended he has not seen any cars at the Rines Forest. The Committee discussed the short-term solution of directing visitors to park on Idlewood Drive. Lisa Judd suggested that the residents of Idlewood Drive might be more accepting if the Committee had a plan in place for a long-term solution for parking.

The Committee talked about the limited interest in the Forest at the current time since its promotion is in the early stages. Steve Moriarty referred to the development of the Twin Brook property and explained that the Town owned the property for a few years before a parking area was constructed and people actually started using it.

Bill Shane said they should determine site distances from the possible entrances and consider the property across the street from the current entrance in regards to headlights shining on the house when exiting the Forest. He would gather more information on these issues for the next meeting.

- a. The Next Meeting will be held on February 20, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Nancy Stroud
Executive Secretary