



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

**Meeting Minutes
February 21, 2008
7:00 PM East Conference Room**

Present: Warren Graumann, Henry Milburn, Town Manager, Bill Shane, Bruce Wildes, Tom Hinman, Lisa Judd

Excused: Jennifer West, Jeff Porter, Steve Moriarty, and Richard Sweetser.

I. Welcome of New Members

Henry Milburn called the meeting to order at 7:10pm and welcomed new members, Warren Graumann and Bruce Wildes.

II. Approval of Draft minutes January 10, 2008

This item was tabled to the next meeting

III. Existing Trail Maintenance Discussion

Trail maps and the facility use policy were mailed to the Rines Forest area residents. The Town office had not received any positive or negative feedback.

Manager Shane asked Bruce Wildes what the harm is in putting plastic trail markers on a tree instead of painted blazes.

Mr. Wildes said that metal tags are placed around boundaries of CCLT properties. A nail or screw will not hurt a tree. He recommended the use of a cedar board so they don't rot. He would discourage plastic tags.

Tom Hinman felt it would be helpful not to use paint if the trails are changed in the future.

The color coding and naming of the trails has been done.

Manager Shane will talk to public works to have them work on the markers, then the Committee can organize a work party to install them.

There was discussion of an area of the forest that needs work to address pass ability.

Tom Hinman noted an old logging road that has turned into a grassy area where he thought maybe they should put in culverts and create a trail so that people don't make the trail wider by going around.

Manager Shane said that that area is flat so to install a culvert would mean to mound earth over it.

It was suggested to lay down planking. There was discussion about horseback riders being able to maneuver around structures.

Manager Shane asked Bruce Wildes if he would bring this issue back to the Chebeague Cumberland Land Trust (CCLT) to determine what their input would be for this area. There are certain things that may not be allowed under the easement agreement.

Warren Graumann asked if there might be a simple bridge across the creek.

Manager Shane said it is a possibility, but there are permitting issues and it would need to conform to the easement agreement.

It was noted that there would be a need to determine how high the water gets around the crossings.

Bruce Wildes said that pesticides for buckthorn won't violate the easement. This was brought up at an earlier meeting and by the forester.

IV. Committee Review and Update of Matrix

The Committee members reviewed an earlier version of the matrix. This portion of the Rines Forest Management Plan had been revised and completed in early 2007 and incorporated into the Plan.

Manager Shane would like to have the forester report integrated into the management plan.

There was discussion regarding hunting in the Rines Forest.

Manager Shane said that the Council strongly supports hunting on the property.

Bruce Wildes had heard from a citizen about their concerns about safety if hunting is allowed on the property.

Tom Hinman spoke about the history of the Rines Forest Project and the intent was to preserve the rural uses of the property. There will always be opposition, but the original intent needs to be reinforced.

There were suggestions that the public be reminded that Twin Brook is restricted from hunting so there are alternative recreation areas during hunting seasons.

Tom Hinman suggested that the Town may need to continue to communicate the intended uses of the property to the public.

Warren Graumann was a hunter safety instructor formerly. He has found that there are tendencies for concerns from non-hunters because of the lack of understanding of the safety training hunters need to achieve before they go into the field. There are not that many hunting related incidents in the State. There are actually more incidents involving snowmobiles.

Discussion of Relocated trail- 1000 feet in length. It was determined that it would be too difficult to relocate it as was originally discussed. Manager Shane wants to meet with Dale Rines this spring to figure out a way to divert the trail enough to direct hikers around the section near the gate that leads to Dale's access road.

The Committee discussed how parking issues could be resolved if Range Road is redone.

Manager Shane said he would like to get more copies of a handbook for trail maintenance and bridge building that had previously been provided to the Committee members.

The most up to date version of the matrix would be provided for the Committee.

V. Other Business

- Next Meeting – Thursday, March 20, 2008 at 7:00pm - Jay Braunscheidel will attend March meeting.
- Council Presentation and Update – May?

Tom Hinman asked if there have been any assignments or direction from Council for the Committee and whether Jay Braunscheidel was doing any other work on Town lands? Manager Shane said he had been working with him on Twin Brook, Val Halla, and the Town Forest. The Committee wanted abutters to be involved if any cutting was done.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted by,

Nancy Stroud
Recording Secretary