

Westbrook Town Forest Annual Meeting Minutes February 5, 2019

Attendees: John Riggio, Gene Van Blaricom, Robert (Bob) Corson, Jay Eno

John called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

The first order of business was the status of the four sign posts which are showing signs of wear due to weathering. John will look into doing a new coat of stain or polyurethane to keep the sign posts from rotting. Gene said the signs are in good shape, it's just the 4x4 posts that need a new coating. The posts are located at McVeagh Rd (1 post), Toby Hill Rd (1 post), and Fairview Rd (2 posts).

More woodchips are needed at the main entrance (off Fairview). There are muddy areas and places where the roots have been exposed that would benefit from being covered with woodchips. John will deliver some when the weather warms up and Gene, Bob, and Jay will spread them using wheelbarrows and Bob's ATV.

John asked about the status of the trail marking. Jay and Gene reported all trail markers are in place and the maps have been placed at the trail entrance. We've restocked the map box several times this year as people take them. No major work is needed at this point on maps or markers, just maintaining what is there.

John asked for an update on the new bridge that was built on Isaiah Way last year. Jay informed him the bridge is in very good shape and the hikers really appreciate the improved access. This should serve us well for many years to come. However, the stepping stone bridge off Gypsy's Way is impassible due to high water levels and unsteady stones. It was agreed to install a new bridge at this location when the water level drops. The new bridge will be similar to the one built last year except that it will be 3 ft wide and have handrails. We will work on staking the highwater boundaries and measuring the elevations. The bridge near the entrance on Fairview may also need replacement if we have adequate funds.

We welcomed Bob as a new addition to the board. He is eager to learn about the forest and he plans to walk it soon with Jay and Gene to familiarize himself with the trails and features.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.