**TOWN FOREST COMMITTEE (TFC)**

**MINUTES (DRAFT)**

**MAY 4, 2022**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jeff Crosby, Chairman; Woody Bowne, Vice-Chair; Fred Mullen, Treasurer; Ron Jarvis, Secretary; Bryan Comeau, Forester

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Accepted as presented

**TREASURERS REPORT:** Accepted as presented

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The Stark Pond gravel pit:

As discussed in February 2022 minutes, the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests has not gotten back to the TFC concerning changes to the gravel mining as proposed by the TFC in a letter to the Society.

Tree planting on Town Common near Stark Statue:

The Town Forest Committee has a history of paying for the care of the trees on the Town Common. Selectman Dave Nault approached the Committee with prices for the replacement of a tree near the Stark statue. The Committee agreed to pay for the tree and passed a motion. Motion: To see if the TFC will pay up to three thousand dollars ($3000.00) for the tree, its transportation and planting.” Motion PASSED.

Tucker Hill Tree Cutting:

The Chair of the TFC was approached concerning cutting a few dead trees which interfered with the view of some of the houses. The logger was invited to attend a TFC meeting for discussion of the tree cutting. No one appeared and the Committee assumed that the matter had been dropped. While in the Tucker Hill development area, Jeff Crosby discovered that the trees had been cut without the permission of the Committee. The Committee may place the matter in the hands of the District Forest Ranger with the Division of Forests and Lands who will try to find the offending party and take whatever legal actions are appropriate. Jeff Crosby will contact the District Forest Ranger.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Use of Stark Pit

Nicki Gammans of the NEW ENGLAND K9 SEARCH AND RESCUE visited the Committee and requested to use the Stark gravel pit to conduct a portion of the canine training.

She agreed that the company would sign a release absolving the TFC and the Town of Dunbarton of any responsibility if someone was injured in any way. The Committee agreed that it was a harmless use of the pit and passed the following motion signifying approval of the use.

Motion: To see if the TFC will allow NEW ENGLAND K9 SEARCH AND RESCUE to use the Stark pit to train dogs for search and rescue. Motion PASSED.

Two lots on Everett Road:

Bill Zeller approached Jeff Crosby and told him his daughter, Holly J. Zeller, had two lots of about 7 acres each she was willing to give to the TFC. Fred Mullen mentioned that there was a deeded bridal path that ran through the lots, but the committee didn’t believe that would be an issue since we weren’t going to do anything that would hinder that use. After some discussion, the Chair asked if there was a consensus among members concerning accepting the parcels. The entire committee agreed to accept the lots.

Use Of Existing Skid Road:

Dave Nault asked if he could use an existing skid road on Town Forest property to skid out logs cut by Eversource as part of their widening of the right of way for the power line. The skid road opens into the Kimball Pond Road gravel pit thus avoiding disturbing wetlands. The consensus of the Committee was that it was okay for Mr. Nault to use the existing skid road.

Stark Pit Gravel Supply:

Jeff Crosby who also serves as the Dunbarton Road Agent reported that the quality of the new gravel in the area we wanted the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF) to let us mine is perhaps not of any real value as road sand due to its clay content. Jeff informed the Committee that there was at least a years-worth of road sand left. This may mean that the disagreement with the SPNHF may be moot in the near future.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

Jeff Crosby will contact the District Forest Ranger and Bill Zeller.

**MEETING ADJORNED:** 9:00 PM

**NEXT MEETING:** August 3, 2022, at 7:30 pm at the Dunbarton fire station

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:** Ron Jarvis