Buffalo Mountain Town Forest Steering Committee

Tuesday, September 8, 2026

6:00 pm

Location: Parker Ladd Room, Jeudevine Memorial Library

Committee members present: Joe Nudell, Lucian Avery, Sue Rivard, Leif Goldberg, Brendan Buckley, Margie Prevot, Eric Remick, Andy Gilbert, Paul Cillo, Julie Sullivan, Rachel Kane
Committee members absent: Tyler Buswell, Dylan LaFlam, Renaud Demers, Marie LaPre-Grabon, James Kelley
Others present: Jack Travelstead, Hannah Redmon

Meeting minutes

Meeting with called to order by Brendan at 6:02 pm. Paul agreed to take notes in Marie's absence.

1. **Minutes approved**
   Moved by Eric and seconded by Andy to approve the minutes of the August 25, 2026, meeting as drafted; unanimously approved.

2. **Two Changes to the agenda**
   The committee agreed to insert a new Item 4. Photoshoot and 5. Cost of trail maintenance example into the agenda.

3. **No public comments**

4. **Photoshoot**
   Joe suggested hiring Hardwick resident Josh Kuckens, who is a professional photographer, to take some photos of people in the Buffalo Mountain Town Forest to highlight some of its features for use in materials and presentations. The Committee agreed that Sept 21 or 22 would be the best days for committee members to be available, so Hannah will contact Josh about a possible mid-afternoon shoot on one of those days.

5. **Cost of trail maintenance example**
   Lucian confirmed that his brother, Hardy, who is experienced with trail maintenance, had done an analysis a few years ago of the annual cost of professionally maintaining bike and multi-use trails that he was involved with and found it to be about $1,000 per mile. Brendan is reaching out to Alex McAndrew about the cost of maintaining Kingdom Trails.

6. **Review upcoming forest walks**
   Planned Buffalo Mountain walks; times TBD:
   October 4: Joe and Lucian are planning two walks one in morning and one in afternoon; one of the walks may be on the town-owned, 70-acre property on Buffalo Mountain Road.
   October 10: Julie and Brendan will lead a walk.
   October 12: Leif and Eric will lead a mountain bike ride that will start at the Wright Farm Road parking area on Rt 15.

7. **Review of any takeaways from Farmers Market**
Committee members had a table at the August 28 Farmers Market at Atkins Field as a community outreach effort. Some of the committee-member comments:
• The market was sparsely attended that day; not a lot of interaction at the table.
• 20-30 people entered the drawing for the door prizes.
• Some people were interested in looking at the map and orienting themselves about the property.
• Suggestions included having walks on the property that are not steep.

8. **Review of management plan draft to date**
Hannah reviewed the following sections of the draft plan as there were issues that needed Committee discussion. There was general agreement that Hannah should review other edits (grammatical, punctuation, word economy, etc.) suggested by Committee members and decide which to accept. The Committee discussed the following sections:

a. Governance structure
- Management Plan is being drafted for the Select Board by the Steering Committee and will become the Town's plan once the Select Board approves it.
- Stewardship Committee: There was general agreement that it should be a committee of seven appointed by the Select Board for staggered three-year terms.

b. Boundaries
This section needs corrections. Lucian agreed to make needed revisions.

c. Roads/access points
Discussed various access points. Concluded that there are four public access points: Wright Farm Road, LVRT, Atkins Field, and the Connector Trail. Additionally, there is limited access for logging purposes through Ken Davis's Log Yard on the eastern side of the Town Forest.

d. Conservation Easement
There was some discussion about the section on ATV and snowmobile trails. Hannah clarified that the language in the draft was consistent with the VHCB policy, and no further edits were suggested.

e. General Topographic Information
Joe pointed out that the draft description mischaracterized the topography of the mountain and needed to be re-written. He agreed to take on the re-write basing it on Matt Peters' ecological report.

f. Trapping
There was some discussion about whether trapping should be allowed in the Town Forest and decision was put off until next meeting. In response to a question about what Wolcott Community Forest policy is, Jack cited the following from the Wolcott management plan:
Trapping: Unattended traps represent a risk factor for other recreational uses of the forest. Trapping is allowed for the management of nuisance populations, when deemed necessary by the Forest Stewardship Committee or Select Board or their appointed delegates, in order to properly manage the forest in accordance with the Stewardship plan and the principles therein.

g. Camping
Discussion about whether camping would be allowed in the Town Forest centered on concerns about the staffing and costs needed to monitor and regulate a camping permit system. Decision to be made at the next meeting.

9. **Plan for presenting to the Selectboard**
    a. October 1st meeting to review management plan
    Hannah reported that the Committee would be on the agenda for the October 1 Selectboard meeting and would have up to 30 minutes to discuss the draft management plan. Committee generally agreed we should plan on leaving 20 minutes for Q&A and using the initial 10 minutes for:
        i. Intro: timeline, what is a management plan
        ii. Relationship between management plan and conservation easement
        iii. Overview of key sections
    b. October 15th meeting to vote on management plan
    The Selectboard plans to vote on the management plan at their October 15 meeting.
    c. Consensus of Committee to hold a public meeting at 6 pm on September 28 at the Jeudevine Library to go over the draft management plan that will be presented to the Selectboard on October 1 and answer questions. The draft plan will be posted before the September 28 meeting for public viewing asap after the Committee's September 22 meeting.

With no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Paul A. Cillo (in secretary's absence)