

# Community Forest Management Plan Committee

## February 27, 2023 Meeting Minutes

*The Town of Barre Community Forest Management Plan Committee held its tenth meeting on Monday, February 27, 2023, starting at 6:00 pm. The meeting was held in Conference room #3 in the Municipal Building at 149 Websterville Road. Committee members present included: David Rouleau, Lori Bernier (remotely), Patty Meriam, Larry Rogacki, Jim West (remotely), and Dean Preston. Also present at this meeting Town Manager Carl Rogers, Recreation Director/Committee Administrator Johnny Crossley, Committee Intern Aidan Rowley, Millstone Trails President Kevin Spaulding and Representative Mark Martin, and Selectboard Member Norma Malone (remotely). Denisse Bergeron joined the Committee as a member of the public.*

1. Call to Order: Chair Larry Rogacki called the meeting to order, 6:04pm
2. Consider Approving Agenda
  - a. Patty Meriam made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. James West seconded the motion. Committee approved 7-0.
3. Consider Approving February 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes
  - a. Patty Meriam made a motion for a change of wording in the February 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes. Dean Preston seconded the motion. Committee approved 6-0
  - b. Patty Meriam made a motion to approve the February 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes following update. Dean Preston seconded the motion. Committee approved 6-0.
4. Receive Public Input (for non-agenda items)
  - a. A member of the public, Denisse Bergeron (in-person), presented thoughts to the Committee. Denisse stated that she lives near Barre Town Forest property near Disc Golf Course hole #17. She expressed appreciation for the Barre Town Forest. Additionally, she suggested an increase in signage around the Barre Town Forest trails.
  - b. Johnny Crossley shared an email received from a member of the public, Diane Solomon. (email attached below).
5. Updates from Recreation Director
  - a. Committee discussed the placement and definition of "low impact" in the Community Forest Management Plan.
  - b. Recreation Director addressed the term "visual access" in the Community Forest Management Plan. The committee considered changing the wording from "allow visual access" to "preserve scenic vistas as identified on the trail map." This was approved.

- c. All three committees being invited to the group (Thunder Chickens, Millstone Trails Association and Quarries disc Golf), will give 10-minute presentations on March 13<sup>th</sup>.
6. Discuss Upcoming Public Survey
  - a. UVM Intern Aidan Rowley led a discussion regarding draft public survey. The committee gave extensive input, and an updated survey will be completed by March 7<sup>th</sup>. (Draft edits attached below).
  - b. Methods of survey distribution will be discussed at a future meeting. (Invitation to Rec groups attached below).
7. Continue Review of Community Forest Management Plan
  - a. *The committee ran out of time and will continue the review at a future meeting.*
8. Tentative Agenda for March 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting
  - a. The three groups who hold Corridor Management Agreements, Thunder Chickens, Millstone Trails Association, and Quarries disc Golf, will present before the committee on March 13<sup>th</sup>. Each presentation will be 10 minutes long.
9. 'Round the Table
  - a. Members of the Committee expressed there was good group discussion, a well organized meeting, and happy to be moving forward, among other things.
10. Adjourn: 7:59 Patty Meriam made a motion to adjourn. Jim West seconded the motion. Committee approved 6-0.

Agenda Item #4

## Barre Town Forest

Diane Solomon <vtsolomon@gmail.com>

Mon 2/27/2023 10:37 AM

To: Johnny Crossley <JCrossley@barretown.org>

Good morning,

I have not been able to attend the committee meetings- due to a schedule conflict. However, if possible I would like to provide this input to the entire committee- perhaps you could read this letter to the board during the public comment?

Thanks in advance!

I have been a resident of Barre Town for about 20 years and first discovered this treasure about 15 + years ago. The town forest is a true treasure for all of our Barre Town community and other visitors that it brings to our local Barre area.

I frequent the forest 3+ times/week in the summer and a few times/month in the winter. I have enjoyed my experiences walking or running the trails and most recently - the disc golf course. My two sons- 19 & 15 - grew up and enjoyed the many opportunities to hike and fish in the forest.

During the last logging experience I was a vocal critic- as the vast mechanical logging disrupted many of the expansive trails and removed many of the old growth in the forest. These beautiful old trees will not grow back in my lifetime, nor my children's. I was devastated to witness the after effects of this logging. To this day- there continues to be 'scrub trees' that impede trail use. As well as piles of trees/debris that diminish the calm and serene experience that many forest users seek when we enter the woods.

During the pandemic- many people sought nature as a way to relieve stress, recreate and restore some sort of balance. And I think many people continue to use the forest for healthy recreation- which is of utmost importance.

Recent studies and research shows the health benefits of time in nature, as well as the need for old forest growth to combat negative air quality. I am firmly against any further logging in our town forest.

The true value of the town forest- in my belief- lies in the healthy benefits that our community experiences when we recreate - in our individual pursuits.

The town forest is a place that I highly value and I would urge the committee to continue to support the original purpose, as a place all residents can enjoy.

The legacy of this committee is to provide a healthy place for all to enjoy and pass along to the next generation of residents and community members.

Thank you for your time and your work to support our Barre Town Forest.

Diane Solomon



Dear {Organization or individual},

**Will you join Us?**

You are invited to attend the <sup>at</sup> ~~next~~ <sup>Give</sup> Community Forest Management Plan Committee meeting on {Month} {day}, {year}. The Committee is eager to receive your input and discuss the future use of the Town Forest with you. The ~~Community Forest Management Plan Committee~~ was created in June of 2022 by the Town of Barre Selectboard. The Committee has been tasked with reviewing and updating the original 2013 Town of Barre Community Forest Management Plan. The Town of Barre Selectboard has charged the ~~Community Forest Management Plan Committee~~ with soliciting the expertise of individuals and groups with a recreational interest in the Town Forest. The Committee recognizes {organizations or individual} recreational interest in the Town Forest. As such, you are hereby invited to come before the Committee to present on behalf of {organization or yourself}.

at your earliest convenience

**What do we mean by present?**

The Committee wants <sup>to know</sup> your thoughts on the last ten years of management of the Forest and how you might perceive the next ten years of management. At the meeting you attend an Agenda item will be dedicated to {individual or organization}. Please present on behalf of the interests of {individual or organization}. Tell the Committee what has worked for you, what has not worked for you, what you would change, what you would not change, and tell us about your future use plans.

Your input will help steer the next ten years of management. Share anything you believe will be relevant to your presentation. The Committee thanks you for your time.

Sincerely,

**Town of Barre Community Forest Management Committee**

Chair: Larry Rogacki

Town Manager: Carl Rogers

Vice Chair: Jim West

Recreation Director: Johnny Crossley

Josh Howard

Washington County Forester: Robert Nelson

Patty Meriam

David Rouleau

Lori Bernier

Dean Preston



# Barre Town Survey

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How often do you visit the Barre Town Forest?

- Almost every day
- At least once a week
- At least once a month
- Rarely
- I've never been in the forest.

Which recreational activities in the Barre Town Forest are most important to you? *do you participate in?*

*(choose/select all that apply)*

- Fishing *separate activity*
- Hiking/trail running
- Snowshoeing
- Cross country skiing
- Hunting
- Mountain biking
- Snowmobiling
- Disc golf
- Bird watching/photography
- Other:

 Request edit access

trail system

How would you rate the quality of the trails at the Barre Town Forest?

Poor

1

2

3

4

5

Excellent

How would you ~~rate~~ <sup>rank</sup> trail for...

List activities

Hiking  
biking  
walking

DASS

Do you feel safe and comfortable walking in the Barre Town Forest?

Yes

No

Other:

Please list any safety concerns you may have with the Barre Town Forest.

Your answer


Are the Town Forest Trail Maps easy to read and understand?

Yes! Very clear and easy to understand.

Sometimes, depending on the map.

No, maps are not visually appealing and hard to read.

I don't know where to find maps?

 Request edit access



If you answered "No, maps are not visually appealing and hard to read," please explain why.

Your answer

Are the forest trails easy to follow and well-marked?


- Yes
- No
- Other:

Which <sup>management</sup> "goal" is the **most** important to you regarding the future of the Barre Town Forest? (Choose 1)

- Wildlife Habitat and Natural Resource Goals
- Recreation, Educational and Cultural Goals
- <sup>Forest Ecosystems</sup> Timber Management ~~Goals~~

(1/3) With respect to Wildlife Habitat and Natural Resource <sup>Management</sup> Goals, which of the following measures would you like to see prioritized going forward?

- Protect biodiversity *do you believe it's being managed?*
- Preserve and conserve ground/surface water
- Protect native habitats through timber management
- Protect deer wintering areas
- Prevent the spread of invasive plant and animal species
- Other:

 Request edit access


(2/3) With respect to Recreation, Educational and Cultural Goals, which of the following measures would you like to see prioritized going forward?

- Promote low-impact outdoor recreation
- Maintain public access to hunting and fishing
- Provide education to the public on biodiversity, stewardship, and natural communities
- Preserve the legacy of the quarries
- Develop and maintain Barre Town Forest parking facilities
- Other:

*Forest Ecosystem*

(3/3) With respect to ~~Timber Management Goals~~, which of the following measures would you like to see prioritized going forward?

- Canopy maintenance
- Minimize disturbance
- Create new openings in the forest
- Allow visual access
- Promote attractive vegetation
- Protect biodiversity
- Protect water resources
- Leave many big trees
- Other:

 Request edit access



How well does the Barre Town Forest promote and maintain a closed canopy?

Not well

1

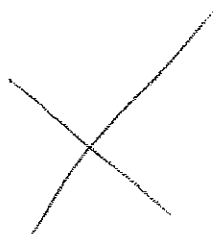
2

3

4

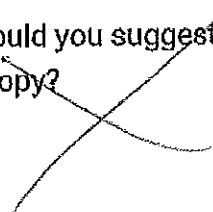
5

Very well



If you answered, "Not well," what would you suggest to the forest management team to help maintain a closed canopy?

Your answer



How <sup>mgmt of</sup> important is it to you that wildlife and ecosystem values be improved in the Barre Town Forest?

Not important

1

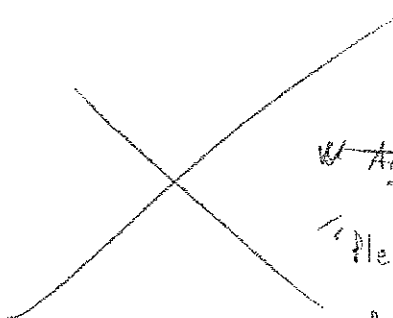
2

3

4

5

Very Important




\*write-in\*

~~Are there any~~

"Please identify any management of the forest ecosystem that can be improved?"

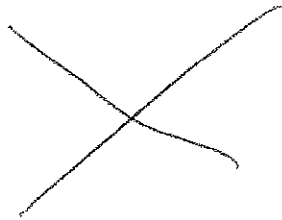
mgmt \*

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Would you like to see a complete stop to logging in the forest?

- Yes
- No
- Other:



Please provide any comments or concerns associated with logging in the Barre Town Forest.

*Active mgmt, which ~~can~~ could include logging, is important in protecting the health of the forest ecosystem*

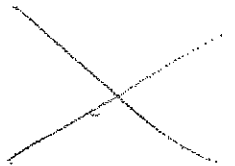
Your answer

How satisfied are you with the playgrounds in Barre?

Not satisfied

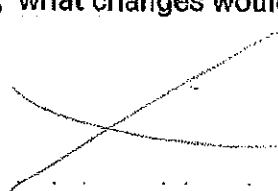
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5


Very satisfied



If you answered, "Not satisfied," what changes would you suggest?

Your answer



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(1/2) Do you think any Barre Town Recreation Guidelines should be enforced **more** in the future? If so, please specify under "Other."

- No
- Other:

(2/2) Do you think any Barre Town Recreation Guidelines should be enforced **less** in the future? If so, please specify under "Other."

- No
- Other:

How satisfied are you with the maintenance of bike paths in Barre?

Not satisfied

1

2

3


4

5

Very satisfied

If you answered, "Not satisfied," what changes would you like to see implemented?

Your answer

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Do you have an affiliation with a particular group or partnering organization?

Yes

No

If you answered "Yes," please list the group(s) you are affiliated with.

Your answer

What types of programs would you like to see promoted in Barre?

Education programs

School programs/outdoor classroom

Private events (weddings, etc.)

Community Events (charitable functions, performances, races)


Other:

(1/2) If you could keep one aspect of the Barre Town Forest *exactly the same*, what would it be?

Your answer

(2/2) If you could change one thing about the Barre Town Forest, what would it be?

Your answer

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Please provide any additional comments/concerns that need addressing.

Your answer

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L. Rogach

Pat Merritt


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[Signature]


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 Request edit access





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