

**Forest Advisory Committee**  
**April 5, 2017**

**Members Present:** Chuck Depew, Peter Park, Janet Johnson, Ron Newbury, Rob Hatch, Kevin Connerton (A), Dave Charrette, Janet Meyers (A)

**Members Absent:** Neal Boyle

**Others Present:** Dianne Park, Heloise Depew

**Quorum:** A quorum was met with 6 members present.

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm.

**Minutes**

A motion was made by Ron, seconded by Peter, to approve the minutes from February 1, 2017 as written. All were in favor.

A motion was made by Peter, seconded by Ron, to approve the minutes from March 1, 2017 as written. All were in favor.

**2017 Winter Severity Index**

Rob passed out information on what the Winter Severity Index is and how it is calculated. This is in reference to the deer population in the town forest. Rob and Dave went to the Town Forest a few weeks ago to determine how the deer population was holding up during this winter and determined it was down 30% from last year. This is due to the harsh winter and the increase in coyote population. A discussion arose on how to replace the deer population. It was suggested to close the town forest for a week and have a trapper come in and trap the coyotes. The coyotes will rebound to their original number within approximately 8 months but in that time frame the deer will have time to replenish the herd. A motion was made by Janet Johnson, seconded by Peter, to hire a coyote trapper, at a cost of \$700.00, to trap and remove coyotes. All were in favor.

**Stewardship Update**

The Stewardship Update will be finalized by September, 2017.

**Sponsorship for Endowments for Wildlife Openings**

Sponsorship of the 12 wildlife openings will take care of maintaining the opening in the future when the town forest runs out of money for maintenance. Janet Johnson will work on this with a target date of September, 2017.

**Such Business as Properly Presented to the Board**

The Walk-in-the-Forest is scheduled for Saturday, April 29, 2017 at 10:00am. Janet Johnson will take care of advertising this event and will also send something to the Elementary School for students to take home.

*Check future meeting minutes for any amendments or changes to these minutes.*

There will be all levels of hikes available to the public.

- Maryø Mountain from Kiosk - 1 ½ miles round trip
- Pequawket Gate around to the airstrip - 3 miles round trip
- Trout Pond ó 4 miles round trip
- Maryø Mountain to Trout Pond ó short walk

A motion was made by Janet Meyers, seconded by Ron, to adjourn the meeting.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.