

**Forest Advisory Committee**  
**May 7, 2014**

**Members Present:** Rob Hatch, Chuck Depew, Ron Newbury, Neal Boyle, Dave Charrette, Janet Meyers, Janet Johnson (7:45pm)

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Bill Elliott, Kevin Connerton

**Quorum:** A quorum was met with 7 members present

Minutes recorded by Dianne Park

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm.

**Minutes**

There was a motion by Ron, seconded by Chuck, to approve the minutes from April 2, 2014 as written. All were in favor.

**Jackman Road Maintenance**

Two bids were received for the maintenance to Jackman Rd. There was one from GW Brooks & Son for \$9,713.00 and one from Ambrose Bros. for \$9,420.00. Some board members felt the bids should be given to the local guy and there was a motion by Dave, seconded by Ron, to recommend accepting the bid from GW Brooks. After a show of hands the motion was tied 3-3. Bill Elliott commented that if both companies have the same qualifications why not give the bid to the lowest bidder. Why would someone want to bid jobs in Freedom if the local guy was going to get the bid no matter the circumstances? It was decided to table this discussion until Janet Johnson arrived.

**Bird Study**

No turkeys were counted the morning of the bird study but it was a good experience for new people to see what the town forest had to offer.

**Wildlife Habitat Plan**

One copy of the Wildlife Habitat Plan was received. The book will be scheduled so all board members have time to read it. BH Keith is willing to come to the next meeting to discuss the contents. Barry included a question and comment sheet and the board discussed all items.

**Trail Grant**

Rob informed the board that Freedom was approved for the Trail Grant of \$7,000 with 20% matching. Dave explained that the matching amount could be in soft match (match with labor) or hard match (match with funds). This will be put on the agenda for next month.

**Continuation of Bid Process for Jackman Rd.**

Janet arrived at 7:45pm and voted to give the bid to the local guy (GW Brooks). Bill Elliott again voiced his opinion to Janet. After further discussion and considering the opinions surrounding this bid a revote was taken by a show of hands:

GW Brooks 6 3 in favor (Charrette, Johnson, Boyle)

Ambrose Bros. 6 4 in favor (Depew, Newbury, Hatch, Meyers)  
A letter will go to the Board of Selectmen recommending they sign the contract with Ambrose Bros.

Ron will put up the No Motor sign at Trout Pond and touch up painting the Freedom Town Forest Sign.

**Fishing Derby-Neal Boyle**

Neal stated that the person who owns the land on either side of the bridge is refusing to allow people on her property this year for the annual fishing derby and asked if the Town Forest has a place to hold this event for next year. Board suggestions were the stream by the beaver dam or the stream on the airstrip. After discussion it was decided the stream on the airstrip would be the better choice. The board will work with Neal to move this event to the town forest for next year.

There was a motion by Janet, seconded by Ron, to adjourn the meeting.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

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