

MORETOWN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN
SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING, AUGUST 22, 2023

Attendees: John Hoogenboom, Mike Brown, Chris Stephenson, Steve Robbins
Meeting called to order at 4:05 pm

The meeting minutes of July 2023 unanimously approved.

- Updates to draft Management Plan
 - Goal for next update to draft plan is 9/15/23.
 - Still targeting the 1st public meeting for the 2nd Select Board Meeting in October 2023.

- Chris met with MES Principal Kate Liptak.
 - The playground directly behind the school is to be replaced.
 - She is busy with new position and unlikely to attend this committee's meetings.
 - Discussion of when the town forest and the playground are "open" or "closed". Should any of the property be restricted at certain times to users?

- Discussion of MES ownership of a portion of the land vs, HUUSD. This needs some research and is an open question for the Select Board. John H. will work with Sasha on this matter.

- Discussion of Hunting policy for the property.
 - Mike reports the Safety Zone has been slightly expanded.
 - The Safety Zone will need to be well marked with signage in the forest.
 - Discussion for additional language for hunting uses as well as mapping of areas where hunting is not allowed – areas where adjoining homes are located – 500 feet buffers.
 - Motion to include map showing both safety zone and buffers unanimously approved.
 - Discussion on policy for use of forest during the 2 week deer rifle season. Should other recreational uses be prohibited during this time?

- Discussion of search for municipal septic location by the Clean Water Committee.
 - Mike spoke with Katelyn Cusak of VLT, holder of the easement. She confirmed that development of a septic system on the conserved lands is not allowed without an amendment to the easement.

- Property Boundaries.
 - Some lines need to be marked and re-established.

NEXT MEETING IS TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 at 4:00 pm at the Municipal Office.