

Minutes
Forest and Parks Commission
February 2, 2026
6:00 p.m. at the Chelsea Town Clerk's office

Present: Jen Chase, Susan Elder, Pete Amber and Kate Willard (via Zoom).

1. The December minutes were approved as submitted. There was no January meeting.

2. Additions to the Agenda.

Diane Stewart/Rooney land: Susan found a copy of a survey map where Stewart had intentions of giving a strip of land to the town. Deed review needs to be done. Susan will ask Phyllis what she remembers of the paperwork found in lister files and then follow up to find Stewart for her input as to what happened. OK to contact current owner Rooney.

Trail at Health Center - Pete and Lizzie have been working on the Memorial Park at the Health Center. The Health Center Board would like to extend the Park to trails on the wooded area (remaining 5-6 acres of woods behind the health center) and possibly to cross the road and connect up with VAST trail to create a loop. It is unknown what permissions are needed to use the pedestrian bridge on Brookhaven side behind the well house. Pete will approach Brookhaven folks to discuss this and use of VAST trail property.

3. Public Comments: Karen Johnson asked if our group would like to join COVERTS group in a book discussion series. COVERTS meets quarterly. Jen Chase has the details if anyone is interested. Kate said she may reach out to them.

4. Green Up Day - Jen wonders if Green Up Day activities could use a boost from the Selectboard in promotion and organization as the number of volunteers is waning. Green Up is held in early May. The duties tend to be around organizing distribution of green bags, coordinating volunteers to specific roads, people with trucks to transport bags from the outlining roads to the transfer station and recruitment/publicizing the events. It was suggested that the town could provide a trailer parked near the basketball court to collect bags from volunteers and that the town could then coordinate getting the bags transported to the transfer station.

5. Two Rivers Walkability/Roll study. The study is now set for Thursday, Feb. 26th at 9:00 - 12:00 with Rita Seto of Two Rivers. They will begin at the library. Kate Maclean and Susan have invited various downtown businesses and the school to be involved.

6. Green Maintenance Donation. No recent update on this matter.

7. Tree Planting Grant. Jen forwarded to Pete Amber an email from the grant suppliers asking for another update of work completed thus far.

8. Pollinator Garden. Susan will check on trees for evidence of deer damage. Pete said arborvitae (Cedars) at Heath Field are untouched at this time.

9. Town Forest. No word from UVT Sean Ogle on trail work. Recent purchase of Hemenway property to Donna Goldberg is a concern to future trail work. Easements in deed allow trails on "existing" logging roads and trails, but Goldberg doesn't allow trail maintenance. Kate spoke to Upper Valley Trails group to discuss what "public access" is allowed and to get clarification.

10. Jaiel from the White River Natural Resources Conservation District sent an email about offering assistance to us. There are several virtual meetings scheduled. Kate will attend the one next week as she is a rep. She will report back next month.

11. Adjourned at 6:50 p.m.