

Appleton Select Board
February 5, 2019

1. Convene, 7 p.m. (Gushee, Wyman, Fenner, Beckett, Costigan)
2. Reminder: Meetings are recorded.
3. Costigan: Motion to sign warrant #68, \$85,798.51, town expenses.
Beckett: second. Unanimous.
4. Beckett: Motion to approve minutes of Jan 29, 2019. Gushee: Second.
Unanimous.
5. Town Forest Access Policy: Second reading of draft. Fenner: Policy would apply to five forest lots, but most concerned with getting sign on W. Appleton Road because of the entrance and landing /parking area.
Jeness Gushee, Jr.: Are they going to be able to walk dogs loose during hunting season? Is the town planning a walking path? What will make people aware of the boundaries?
Fenner: Dogs must stay under owner voice or leash control per state law. Existing skidder paths are the only trails. Boundaries are marked for cutting. Plan is to block vehicle entrance to forest, but there is room to park on the landing. Plan to put up a sign identifying the forest. The town does not plan to designate trails beyond the skidder trails and developed snowmobile trail.
Andy Staples: Will state law regarding loaded guns and designated trails apply if skidder trails are now hiking trails? When is it a trail and when is it not a trail?
Wyman: Georges River Land Trust treats dogs on properties by location; Hidden Valley allows dogs off leash.
Fenner: Sounds like you would like us to consider prohibiting dogs during hunting season.
Charlie Garrigan: Is there a lack of open space in Appleton?
Clark-Staples: This policy seems like the cart before the horse. Is this what people want?
Garrigan: The town has developed access to this lot?
Fenner: No intent to build trails but the skid trails become like trails. There is an existing snowmobile trail.
Staples: Who's going to enforce these policies?
Wyman: Forestry is done. Skidder trail invites access because of landing and skidder trail. We want to clarify what uses are permitted.

Fenner: W. Appleton and all the forest are commercial forests owned by the town. W. Appleton has been banned to public access during forestry operations.

Staples: No motorized vehicles.

Fenner: Adopt a policy.

Garrigan: Are there studies on the road and how increased traffic will impact the road?

Fenner: There will be no additional clearing on W. Appleton Road for additional parking.

Garrigan: You might put a kiosk forward.

Fenner: The intent of the policy was to provide backup for motorized vehicle regulation.

Staples: I think you started with good intentions but it's way too much.

Fenner: Ban on access stays until the policy is resolved.

Clark-Staples: The idea of signs posted and kiosks looks a little bit more like, "Come one, come all" and it changes the dynamic of the town forest.

Costigan: Will reference Project Land Share which is in place for private landowners.

6. Road Commissioner: More sand (400 yards) from Dave's World arriving Feb. 6. Called DOT on sunken culvert at Belfast Turn. All dirt roads opened today. Speed sign is in storage. Washouts by fire department need to be addressed.

7. Fenner: Motion to enter Executive Session 1 MRSA 944 and 841.

Beckett: Second. Unanimous. Adjourn 8:27 p.m.

8. Fenner: Motion to deny abatement 2019-1. Costigan: Second.

Unanimous.

9. Adjourn.