Town Forest Committee Meeting  
Sunday, January 10th, 2021 10:00AM  
Large Town Forest Parking Lot, Winter St, Ashland, MA 01721

Members Present: Mike Jones, Robert St. Germain and Catherine Rooney

Members Absent: Brian Forestal, Brian McGrattan and Jamie Tripp

Public Participation/Speakers:  
Jeff Ritterson of Ma Audubon Society  
Dan Stimson of the Sudbury Valley Trustees  
Johnathan Haarstick of the Sudbury Valley Trustees

Call to Order 10:05am

The Guest Presenters Suggested the Following;

Trail location: Trails should avoid wetlands, sensitive habitat (not defined) and edges.

Habitat areas: Reasons given for why some habitat areas are good for certain types of birds and others are not.

Deer: Browsing by deer was noted as the cause of a lack of lower and middle level growth which reduced the bird population and habitat diversity.

Habitat management: Tree removals to open forest floor to more light to promote ground cover plants and edge plants. Success would hinge on prior deer population control. (Note Ritterson)

Dan Stimson: Stated that new trails should not be installed without a defined need. Density of trails in the forest should keep to a minimum. Unofficial / neighborhood trails mapped and controlled to reduce numbers. A study would be needed to make recommendation on new trails.

Jeff Ritterson: Stated that some areas should be managed and some should not, but invasives and high deer population mean some habitats will decline. Management should be considered to increase bird diversity. Only tree removal was mentioned as a management technique. The power line area was pointed out as an area to promote larger scale management. Minimum areas of 3 acres with a 150’ width (about 300’ long). Co-operation from the utility would be necessary.

Birds: two seen and one heard.

Adjournment: 12:46