

# Blood Hill Management Committee Meeting Minutes

April 23, 2011

10am Blood Hill, Luke Road

Present: Roberta, Cathy, Bob, Matt, Paula, Cedwyn

- Meeting called to order at 10:05am
  - Vote to allow Conservation Commission to approve annual sugaring agreement  
6-0 in favor
  - Vote to allow Fitchburg Water Department to give up their committee seat  
6-0 in favor
  - Any activity reports?  
Cedwyn mentioned that Dave Pillsbury regularly drove up the trail to do the sugaring. This will need to be mentioned as not allowed for the next annual agreement. Replacement of a gate will likely take care of the problem.
  - Review actions items from January 11 meeting
    - Farm gate cost  
Paula reported that 16' high quality farm gates go for \$169.99, economy gates \$89.99. Anything longer than 16' is custom and very expensive so we would need two to cover the span.
    - Bird survey  
Roberta reported that Brad Blodgett who performed the last bird survey has hung up his binoculars. Paula will look into finding someone else who might be interested.
    - Haying  
Paula reported that the Rossbacks are still interested in haying the field despite retiring so no change necessary.
- Meeting adjourned at 10:20am

- Field Work:

Due to the snowy cold inclement weather, the committee decided to just hike up and review the trail & culvert area for work to be done at a later more pleasant time. It was very helpful to view at high water time. We were joined by one of the tenants of the house on Luke Rd.

- Gate installation

Since the cost of two gates is quite high for an unfunded committee, discussion around installing posts instead occurred. Concern of vehicle access for culvert repair was considered. Decision to install posts such that there is a 10' opening in the middle of the span to allow access that will be blocked by attached boards to keep out illegal wheeled vehicles. Cedwyn feels he can do this work in the next month or two. If the gated boards are destroyed, similar to all deterrent attempts at Mt. Watatic, we will need to revisit this.

- Culvert clean-out

The culvert does appear to be functioning fine but water is being diverted prior to the culvert by slash and blow downs such that it has formed its own channel. After much review it seems the best approach will be clearing of the channel approaching the culvert (work the tenant has volunteered to do) and the installation of water bars along the trail to keep the water moving across not down the trail furthering the erosion problem. Some clearing of debris on the down flow side of the water bars may be required. It is evident that some of the water flowing in the trail is from natural seepage not diverted water flow. A time for this work was not scheduled.