

SELT BRCF Management Committee

September 20, 2021

Updates

- MMRG
- Past events
 - Snowshoe Rattlesnake Mountain & Winter Warmer Adventure (February)
 - Town Winter Carnival (March)
 - Vernal Pools (April)
 - Solstice-Themed Nature Walk (June)
 - Sunset Summer Hike (August)

Updates – Powder Mill Snowmobile Club



- ✓ Successful Community Forest projects require significant commitments on the part of the community.
- ✓ Community involvement should not be a distraction but should be encouraged.
- ✓ Community Forests secure the rights to an important access at the local level so that decisions about how the land will be managed can be made within the community.
- ✓ Most of the projects are initiated and managed by volunteers within the community. The community must make some degree of financial commitment, and the community is responsible for the long-term stewardship of the resource. This requires "readiness and interest" on the part of the people within the community.
- ✓ Individual or a group of individuals in the community needs to provide leadership and vision. This person or group should be well respected and have the interest, capacity, and stamina to promote and shepherd the project and to galvanize resources. Communities need access and a good local person or group because "it has to matter to someone there."

Developing Recreational Infrastructure

When new recreational trails or other infrastructure are proposed for your town forest, your first step should be to coordinate these efforts with pertinent plans, including your town plan and applicable regional, transportation, and wildlife plans.

This should be part of a comprehensive focus on minimizing impacts to wildlife and habitats, waters, and other natural resources as well as historic and cultural resources.

Credit – The Vermont Town Forest Stewardship Guide:
A Community Users' Manual for Town Forests, Page 38

Updates – Powder Mill Snowmobile Club



PMSC 2021 Trails (SELT)

Plan for 2022, Reroute camp pride trail. Still needed before starting,

1. Moose Mt. review and ok.
2. SELT study and final layout.
3. Approved grant, (Late April 2022)
4. Right weather.

Work done so far in 2021

1. Help on new Rattlesnake trail.
2. Upgrade water issues and debris on the Lake trail.
3. Brush control and mowing. After heavy logging brush can be a major problem for the first 15 years.
4. Non-Birch ridge, upgrade Den trail.

Problem areas to be discussed

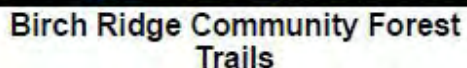
1. Beaver flow on class 6 Mountain Pasture Road. In years of heavy water flow and warmer temps unsuitable for snowmobiles. If SELT and one abutter allow we could reroute. If not, and abutter allows we could drain as it is a public road, open to the public and town has some rights to maintain.
2. Corridor 22 by Bickford, last year talked of reroute by a vinal pool and few upgrades. OK'ed by trails, no input from SELT. It is useable now in winter, but if SELT wanted, we would upgrade to three season trail.

Congratulations! The selection committee has reviewed all applications for Federal Fiscal Year 2022 Recreational Trails Program grants and your application was selected for funding. There is a stipulation that your organization check with DES for any further permitting that may be necessary for this project. They are aware there was a SPN permit submitted with this application. They want to ensure that there are no additional permits required. Please submit any email correspondence with DES to confirm this.

Please reply to this email if your organization accepts these funds.

This is NOT a notice to proceed. There are many more reviews that need completion. Estimated time for funds available will be June 2022. So please stand by for now. The next review will be with Division of Historic Resources at the end of September. If they have any questions or stipulations about your project I will notify you.

- Rattlesnake trail completed connecting the Merrymeeting Rd parking to Lake Trail & Corridor 22
- Map shows existing public trail network



Updates

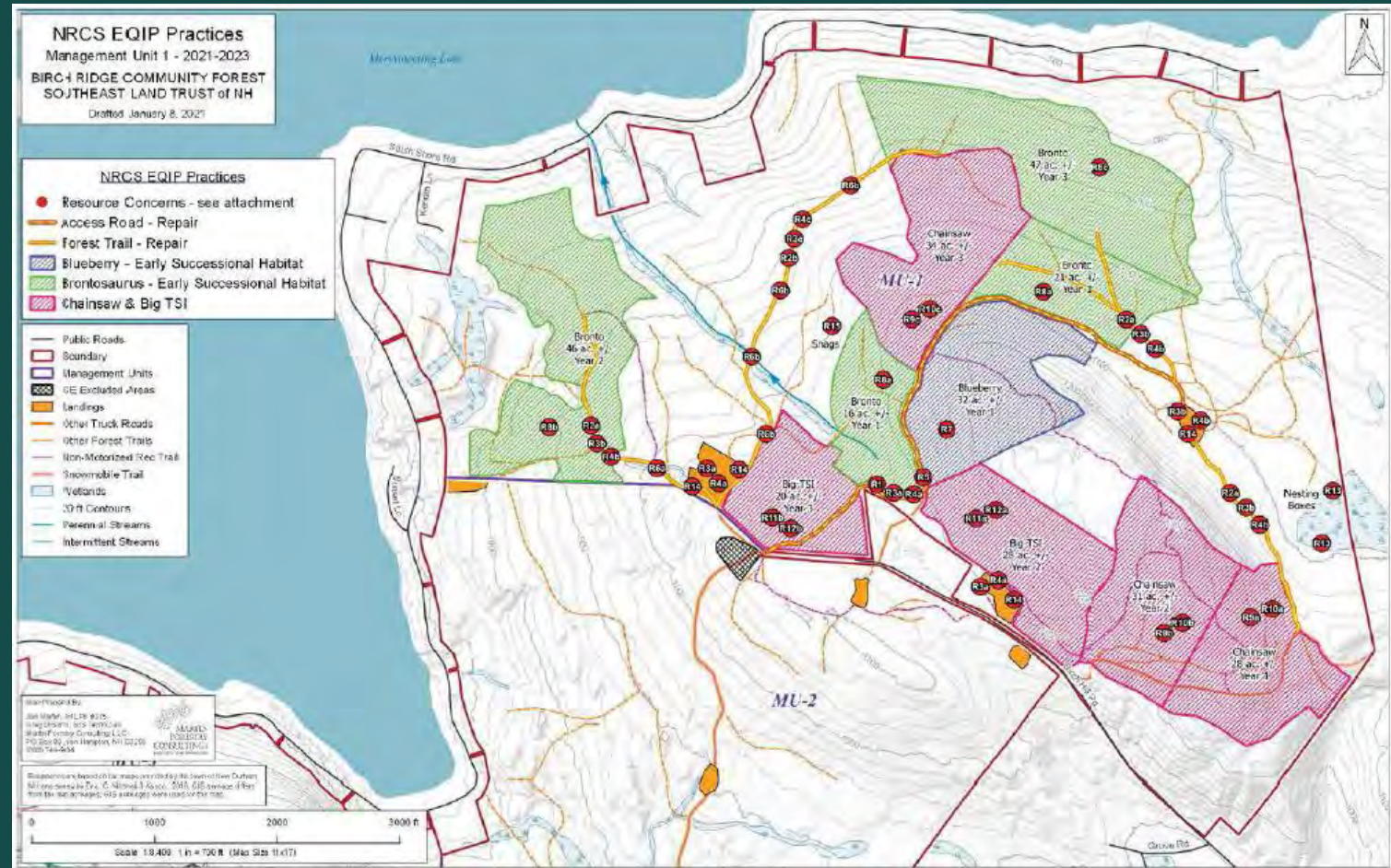
- Trails Working Group
- Mowing at Cabin
- Stell & Young addition management planning

Updates – NRCS funding

Funding from 2022-2024

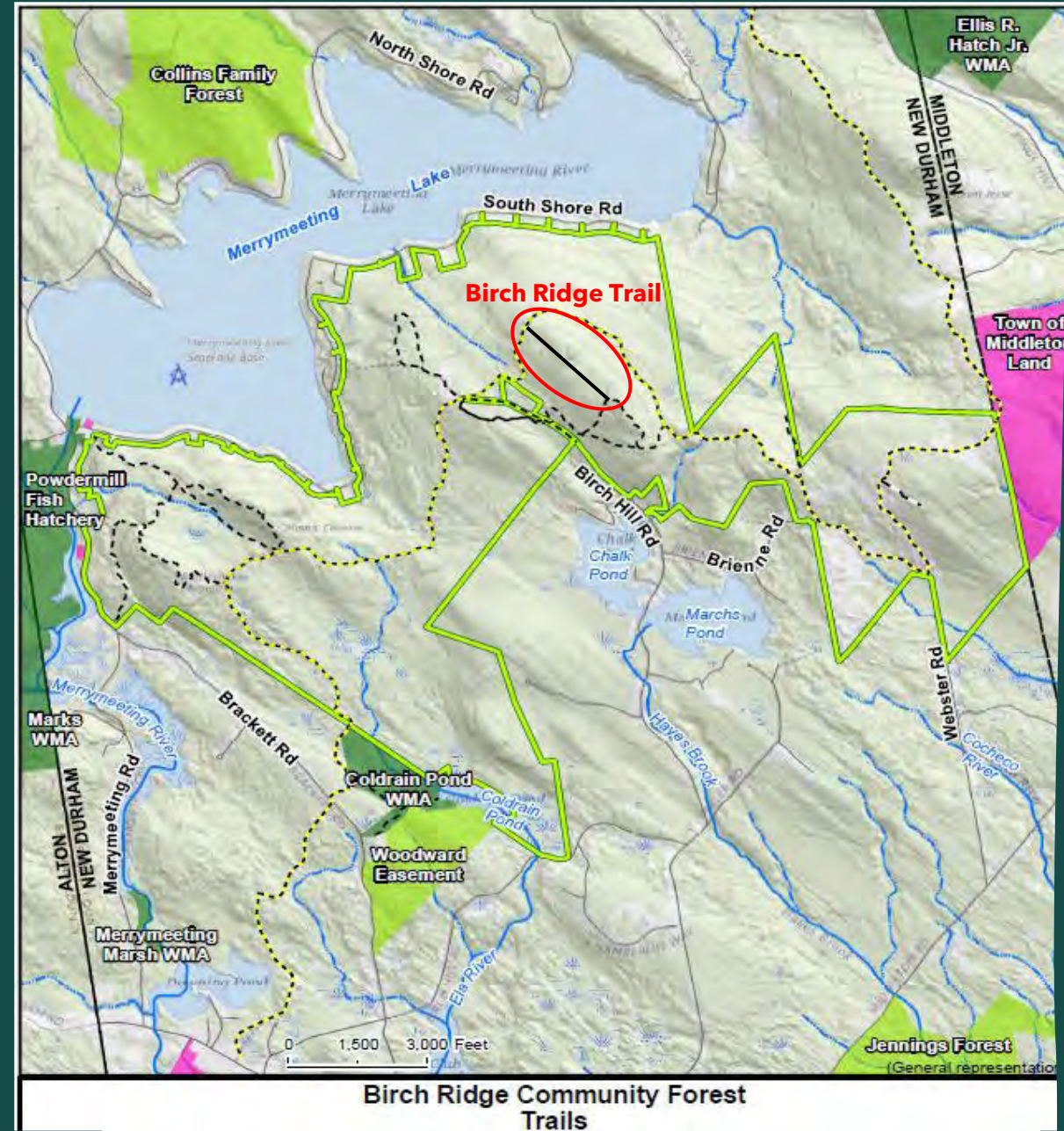
Includes the following:


- Improvements to access roads and woods roads
- Vegetative erosion control/seeding/mulching
- Early successional habitat/beech control with brontosaurus
- Forest stand improvement
- Water control structures (TBD based on design by NRCS engineers)



Planned work remaining for 2021

- Birch Ridge Trail – including workshop
- Update to kiosk map
- Events
 - Foliage walk (SELT)
 - Hawk Watch (MMRG)





6/30/2021

Signage Proposals

Birch Ridge Community Forests

Catherine Orlowicz

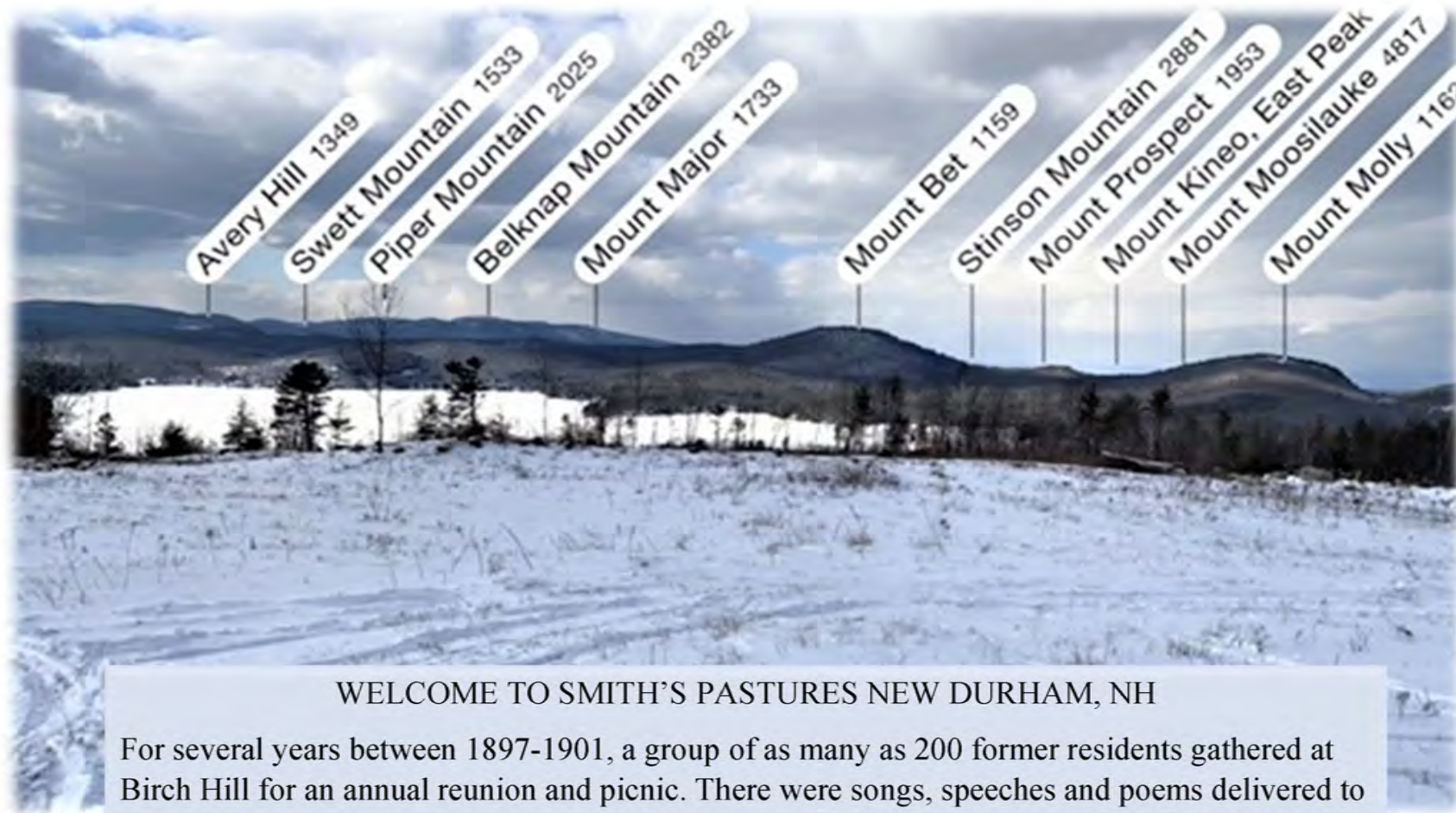
TOWN HISTORIAN NEW DURHAM, NH

10/21/2021



Figure 10A-30—The base design reflects the mountainous terrain. Le Conte Divide, Sierra National Forest. North Pacific BEIG Province.

Suggested signs at Smith's Pastures, the location for the cabin. A durable exterior sign, to be attached to the building's exterior North and South walls. The photographs would show the view across, with labels for the visible peaks, from the appropriate wall. I would suggest one sign feature about life in rural New Durham. The other about the history for the pasture. I have made a mock-up of one labeled "Welcome to Smith's Pastures New Durham, NH". (Note compass direction will need to be verified.)



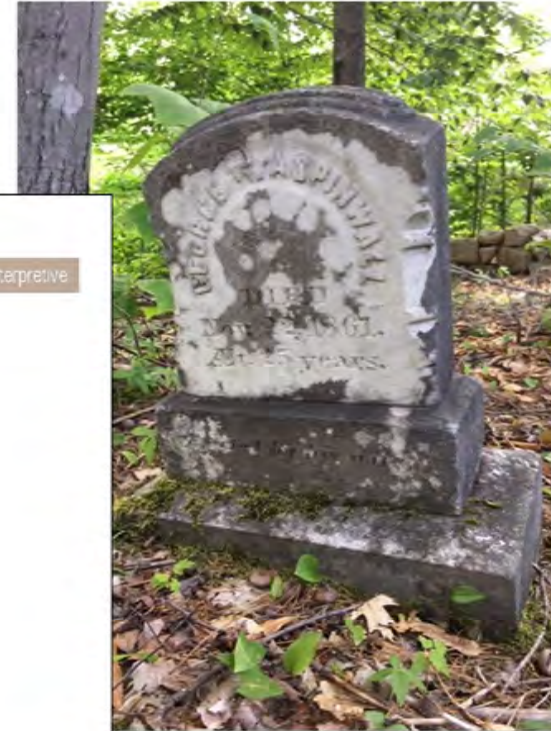
WELCOME TO SMITH'S PASTURES NEW DURHAM, NH

For several years between 1897-1901, a group of as many as 200 former residents gathered at Birch Hill for an annual reunion and picnic. There were songs, speeches and poems delivered to reminisce about times past and long-lost friends. *"As we gained the summit of the hill... we are struck with wonder at the beautiful scenery spread out before us. There lay the calm and peaceful Merrymeeting Lake, bounded by rugged hills and mountains, covered with forests of trees... a picture of loveliness, which no artist could portray."* Tristram H. Fletcher





Suggested signage at the Old Family Graveyards and the old Durgin Homestead foundation.



November 2012

Chapter 10A Visitor Information Signing

Interpretive



Suggest free standing signs. (Posts and frames could be made of wood)
Information would be about the families buried in each old graveyard.
The Durgin Homestead site would have some information regarding them and some history about the area.



Figure 10A-30—The base design reflects the mountainous terrain. Le Conte Divide, Sierra National Forest, North Pacific BEIG Province.

10A-27



United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service

This is the source for the signs.
C E Orlowicz Town Historian
2021

Engineering Staff • Washington, D.C. • EM7100-15 • Revised • October 2013

Sign and Poster Guidelines for the Forest Service

10/21/2021



Figure 9-2—Examples of Cooperator posters.

Example for trail sign to help with usage etiquette.

Equestrian Use of Trails

- Recommended Trails
- Timeframe



2022 – Discussion for work plan/budgeting

SELT Budgeting Timeline

- 10/8 – Departmental budgets due to SELT Executive Director
- 10/18 – SELT Management Team initial review of compiled budget
- 10/20 – BRCF Management Committee review of BRCF budget
- 10/21 – SELT Finance Committee review of budget
- Early November – SELT Management Team review of budget
- 11/17 – SELT Finance Committee vote to recommend budget
- Late November – SELT Management Team discussion of budget if needed
- 12/10 – Budget sent to SELT Board of Directors for a 12/16 vote

Needed tonight

- Initial Discussion
- Understanding of basic priorities for Management Committee
- Projects/management activities that may require time and/or funding from SELT

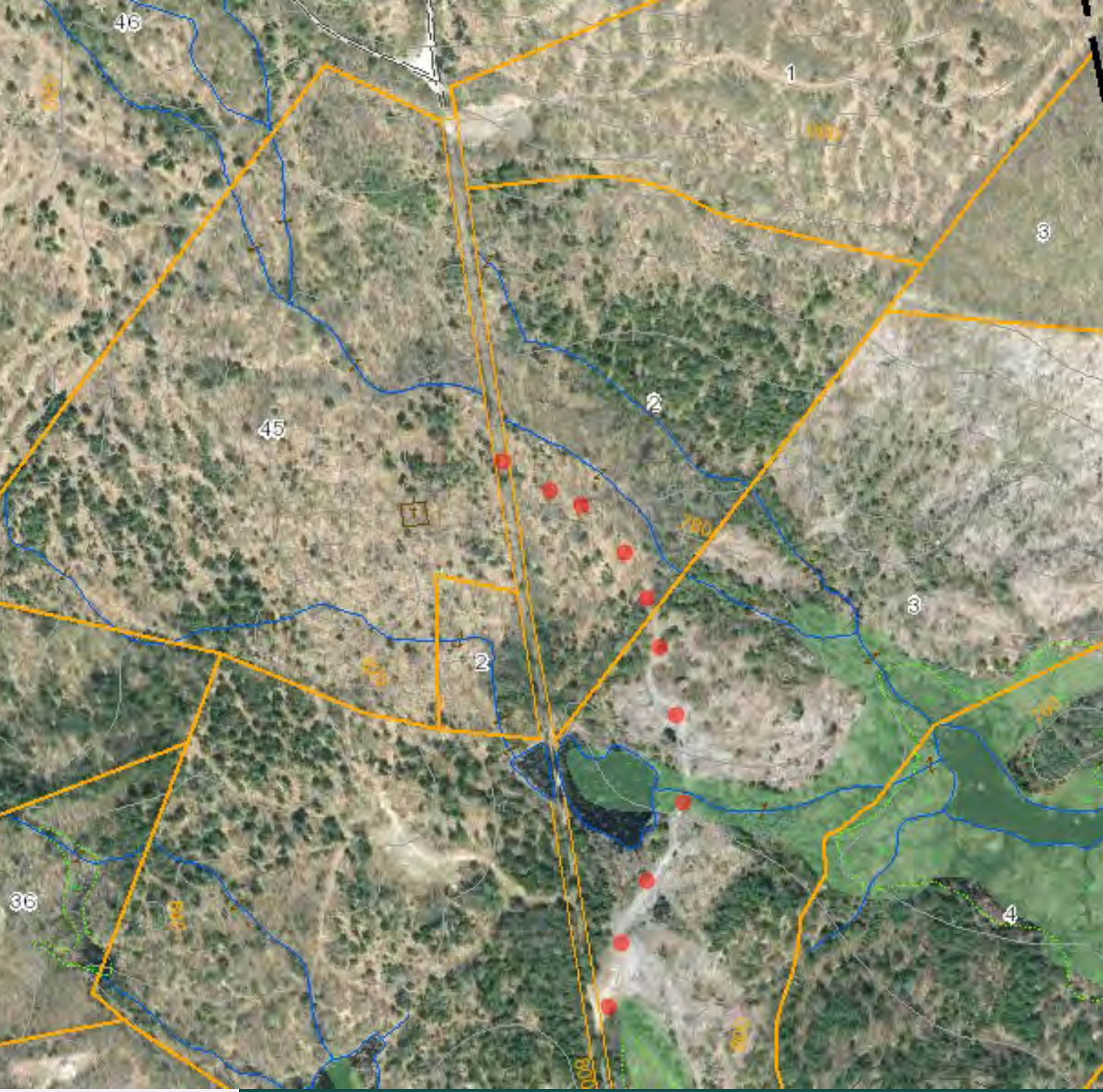
2022 Work Plan & budget ultimately determined by funding, capacity and other SELT priorities

2022 – Discussion for work plan/budgeting

For discussion

- Trail work
 - Accessible trail
 - Lions Camp Pride trail
 - Additional South Shore connector

What information does the Management Committee need to fully evaluate new trails/changes to existing trails?



Every year I pull sleds out of water somewhere.
Trying to move trails to dry ground when possible

1. Beaver flow on class 6 Mountain Pasture Road. In years of heavy water flow and warmer temps unsuitable for snowmobiles. If SELT and one abutter allow we could reroute. If not, and abutter allows we could drain as it is a public road, open to the public and town has some rights to maintain.

- Can we do a test run to see if there is any
- interests in a cross-country ski trail?
- We have a 4-foot groomer with a plow.
- We have a light weight 4-foot drag.
- It would take less than a day to make
- a $\frac{3}{4}$ mile trail as it is 95% there.
- 4. No cost to SELT.



2022 – Discussion for work plan/budgeting

For discussion

- NRCS funded work
- Stell & Young
- Events
 - SELT & MMRG goal is for 3 events each
 - PMSC
 - Other?



Fireworks at the cabin, is there support from the town?

- This could be a fun family friendly place to enjoy the lake fireworks.
- Fire chief said he will support and have a present at be cabin, if fireworks are done by licensed pro.
- The cabin area does not have any restrictions as it is 2 ½ acres out from the rest of the property.
- This is a community forest that is here for the best interest of the community. People like fireworks and this is the best place for the town people to watch from.

What I learned from the picnic is, the parking in the lower parking lot does not work.

- Putting chairs and coolers into a transport is very time consuming and confusing.
- Older/slightly impaired people do not like it, we want all to have fun.
- Doing the swap in the dark would not be any fun and very complicated.

I need help to make this happen. Speak up, maybe we should do a test run Labor Day with the management committee.

Without letters of support this may not be approved by SELT or the management committee.

Who like this idea?



20 years ago

9/2021







Waiting for the lake
fireworks at the cabin

Celeste Chasse
Recreation Director
ndrec@newdurhamnh.us
www.newdurhamnh.us



Town Hall
4 Main Street
New Durham, NH 03855
Tel: (603) 859-2091
Fax: (603) 859-6644

TOWN OF NEW DURHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE

AUGUST 25, 2020

Dear SELT,

On behalf of the New Durham Parks & Rec we would like to support events at the cabin on Birch Hill Road in New Durham. We are willing and able to help out other clubs and/or committee's in the area that would like events their as well.

In March we had a winter carnival. The last event of the night was at the cabin. We had a fire and a piano player up there. It was a nice place to have gatherings. I feel we should add some additional parking for night events closer to the cabin due to the fact there is no light for the pathway. Also if you bring stuff for the event it's not easily assessable.

We appreciate you allowing New Durham people to enjoy such a beautiful spot. If we can help with anything or some up keeping please let me know.

Thank you once again for your generous support of the New Durham parks & rec.

Respectfully,

Celeste Chasse
New Durham Rec Director

2022 – Discussion for work plan/budgeting

Cabin – brief introduction for tonight

- Cabin & surrounding area has been used for several events
- Need to understand longer term vision for the cabin to ensure activities done fit with end plan
- Short-term: consider establishing consistent guidelines for use
- Long-term: more formal planning process needed by the Management Committee to understand and determine
 - Allowed uses
 - Desired uses
 - Work needed to cabin
 - Additional infrastructure needed/wanted (e.g. bathrooms)

Suggest survey be sent out to Committee members along with some leading questions for consideration during future discussions