

Charter of the Little Big Forest Stewardship Committee

Name: the group will be called the Little Big Forest Stewardship Committee (SC)

Purpose: the SC has been established to assist the Stoddard Conservation Commission in

- engaging the townspeople of Stoddard in protecting and managing the Little Big Forest as a community forest.
- complying with the reporting requirements stipulated by the organizations and persons that helped to fund the purchase of the property now known as the Little Big Forest.
- advising the Stoddard Conservation Commission on management policies and activities that are in keeping with the protection of the ecological integrity of the LBF and which help to provide for desired educational and recreational uses.
- cooperating with the James Faulkner Elementary school faculty and students to help realize the potential full value of educational and recreational programs linked to the conservation and managed use of the Little Big Forest.
- working with the Stoddard Conservation Commission and interested community members to review the draft Management Plan for the LBF and to finalize the Management Plan, including associated land use policies, in anticipation of its formal adoption by the Stoddard Conservation Commission
- collaborating with the Conservation Commission to identify opportunities for the organization of activities and the mobilization of human and financial resources to help implement the LBF management plan and to achieve the conservation and management goals for the LBF
- assisting the Conservation Commission to identify issues related to the use of the LBF that need to be addressed by the Town of Stoddard and the Conservation Commission.
- assisting with other tasks and activities as recommended by the Conservation Commission

Organization: the SC is constituted by the Stoddard Conservation Commission from interested friends of the Little Big Forest who have ties to the Town of Stoddard and are interested in the conservation of the Little Big Forest as a community forest for the Town of Stoddard. The SC is also committed to ensuring the full participation and engagement of the younger generation in Stoddard in the management planning and in the organization of educational and recreational programs in the Little Big Forest. To this end, the SC will work with the James Faulkner Elementary School to encourage student leaders to become members of the SC and to attend the monthly meetings.

The SC will include persons who agree to fulfill the responsibilities of the following positions:

- Chairman: responsible for convening and chairing periodic meetings of the SC, as needed, with a meeting agenda to be prepared in consultation with the Chair of the Conservation Commission
- Vice Chairman: responsible for assuming the duties of the Chairman if the Chairman is not available

- Secretary: responsible for circulating the meeting agenda and supporting documents, and for preparing meeting notes and summaries of action items, for referral to the Conservation Commission and Town of Stoddard as appropriate.
- Liaison for the Board of Selectpersons: responsible for providing guidance in relation to the interests and responsibilities of the Town of Stoddard and for facilitating communities with the Town BOS
- Liaison for the Conservation Commission: responsible for providing guidance in relation to the interests and responsibilities of the Conservation Commission and for facilitating communities with the members of the CC.
- Liaison for the James Faulker Elementary School (JFES): responsible for highlighting the importance and facilitating the achievement of the educational and recreational goals for the LBF, and for recruiting and enabling Student Leaders from the JFES to serve as members of the Stewardship Committee.

Student Leaders: Applications from interested Student Leaders from the 4th and 5th grades of the JFES will be received and reviewed on an annual basis to aid in nominating interested students. Selected Student Leaders will be responsible for providing a student perspective and an essential voice in making decisions about the Little Big Forest trails, infrastructure development and educational programming that will impact JFES students. The Student Leaders will also cooperate with and support the teacher serving as the JFES Liaison to keep the JFES student body and teachers informed about and engaged in the LBF educational and recreational programs.

Members of the SC are encouraged to serve for a term of 1 to 2 years.

Meetings: the SC will meet periodically as necessary to fulfill its mandate and to carry out its activities. Initially, the SC will convene a meeting on the third Wednesday of each month, beginning at 6 pm. Unless otherwise agreed, the meetings will be held at the Stoddard Town Hall. Public notification of the SC meetings and decisions taken will be ensured through notices and meeting minutes posted on the webpages for LBF Stewardship Committee, Conservation Commission and Little Big Forest.

Revision History

Date	Changes	Author
9/9/23	Initial Draft	Bob Winterbottom
10/10/23	Remove draft and add revision history	Terri LaRoche
1/31/2024	Highlight purpose related to cooperation with JFES. Add information about Student Leaders and adjust text about date / time / notification for monthly meetings	Bob Winterbottom

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