



Friends of Upton State Forest
PO Box 258
Upton, MA 01568-0258

<http://www.friendsofuptonstateforest.org>
friends@friendsofuptonstateforest.org

“To preserve, enhance and protect the natural and historic resources of Upton State Forest.”

December 22, 2011

Dear Member,

It has been six years since the Friends of Upton State Forest organized and developed our bylaws, which the membership approved in January of 2006. Since that time, they have served us well, but we recognized it was time for a review and update. A Bylaws Review Committee was formed and met in November of 2011 for that purpose. The committee had some members who worked on the original bylaws and others who came later. The Board of Directors has reviewed the suggestions and voted to submit the suggested changes to the membership at our annual meeting in 2012.

Most changes were minor and involved punctuation, simplification, clarification and updates. The major changes were in Articles 7 and 8, which have to do with Officers and Directors. The original bylaws were far more complicated and difficult to work with. In addition, we recognized that having more people involved with decisions concerning our activities would be a positive step. For that reason, a suggestion is included that would allow the Board of Directors to adjust the number of members at large who serve on the Board.

An update to the methods of voting would allow us to take advantage of modern technology to facilitate our work. Therefore, we are recommending that the Board of Directors be authorized to explore, establish guidelines and implement, absentee and electronic voting. Since many of our members do not live nearby this would also allow their participation.

The enclosed bylaws show the suggested changes underlined with deletions noted in the margins. If you are receiving this electronically, we are attaching a copy of the current bylaws for comparison. If you are receiving this by regular mail, and do not have the original copy of the bylaws that was included with your first membership package, please let us know. We can provide a copy if you wish.

Since some of the changes involve the composition of the Board of Directors, we will be asking the membership to delay voting for a new slate of officers and directors until our next meeting.

Please review the suggested changes, and try to attend our annual meeting on February 6 (snow date, February 13), 7PM at the Upton VFW. We will be discussing the changes and voting on them that night.

Sincerely,
Friends of Upton State Forest Board of Directors