



Town Forest Committee

Town Of Hinesburg

10632 Route 116 Hinesburg VT 05461

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Meeting Minutes April 3, 2013

Members Present: Stewart Pearson, Chris Haviland, Jason Reed, Brent Francis, Steve Russell, Paul Wiczoreck, Mike Potvin, Chuck Reiss

Guests: Joe Colangelo (Hinesburg Town Administrator), Frank Koss (Hinesburg Community Police Chief), Tom Keller, Jim Collins

1835 - Call To Order

1836 - Minutes From March 5th, 2013

Motion: Mike Potvin to accept as written

Second: Jason Reed

Discussion: Motorized vehicles not causing issues in town forest

Motion: Brent Francis to amend Action Item in March 5th minutes concerning motor vehicles in "Comments made in general discussion that motor vehicles did not seem to be an issue in HTF".

Second: Mike Potvin

Motion: approved

Minutes approved with amendment

1842 - Bat Houses In LHTF - Tom Keller (Eagle Scout Request). Tom Keller wants to put bat houses on HTF land to enhance bat habitat to avoid potential easements at LHTF. Bat houses are to provide bat habitat especially for the Indiana bat. Bat houses will be built to spec of Bat Conservation International. Contact: Alissa Bennett. 3 poles with 2 bat houses attached to each pole. Paul W. was of the opinion that since the bat houses were being provided to enhance bat habitat and that was the reason for the federal grant to purchase LHTF, therefore bat houses were consistent with that grant.

Motion: Paul W Approve Tom Keller to install of 6 bat houses (2 on each pole) according to Bat Conservation International Spec. Installation will be accomplished before July 2013.

Second: Chris Haviland

Motion: approved

1858 - Requests from Town Administrator, Joe Colangelo, and Hinesburg Community Police Chief, Frank Koss concerning Hours for HTF on Hayden Hill West and use of firearms in HTF - Loitering in HTF parking lot (Hayden Hill West) has been noted and Police Dept. have received complaints. Frank

Koss, Problem with Hayden Hill West issues since he has been Police Chief. Frank would like to post signs at the bottom of HHW (near North Road) to display hours allowed to be in parking lot. Police goes off duty at 2300 hours. Frank sees HHW parking lot as an "attractive nuisance". Frank would like to restrict parking lot from loitering and reduce traffic on HHW. Speeding on HHW a problem. Linking roads from HHW is another issue. No complaints have been received from Hayden Hill East or Economou Road parking areas.

Prohibit the use of firearms excluding hunting seasons. Joe discussed language for prohibiting of firearms in HTF except for hunting. One complaint to HCPD was that a rifle was fired from a moving car on road. General discussion about firearms, and concern for local residents near HTF. Suggested hours of HTF closing 9-10 till 6:00 a.m.

HTFC members concerned about legitimate use of HTF after hours (hiking, snowshoeing, Bird watching). Frank said police department would use their discretion. Frank Koss amended proposal times to close HHW parking lot from 10:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. Fines for violators would be established by Select Board.

1925 - General agreement of HTFC, for an ordinance to close HHW parking lot from 10:00 p.m. - 5:00 a.m. General agreement of HTFC for an ordinance for no shooting in HTF except pursuant to legal hunting and no shooting in parking lots.

1929 - Signs and Kiosks Updates - Stewart Pearson discussed LHTF kiosk which will be placed near fence at trail entrance. Received and opened one bid for kiosks. Will wait for more bids. General discussion about moving forward on kiosks. HTFC does not accept current bid and Chuck Reiss will pursue other options and report to HTFC.

1938 - Boundaries (referred to work by Brent Francis for maps and names) - Cost is prohibitive to formally survey HTF to remark boundaries.

1939 - Closing Of Eagle's Trails Due To Wet Conditions - Chris Haviland will post signs.

1940 - Reviewed Priorities For Action Priorities (reference HTF management plan) - Jason read through items contained in HTF management plan. General discussion. All issues are being address and work is in progress.

1954 - Other Business - Trail names. Brent Francis will reintroduce discussion/consideration for changing some trail names to ones that are more meaningful to the community at another HTFC meeting. Brent has some recommendations submitted from various groups.

1955 - Meeting Adjourned