



## **Town Forest Committee**

Town Of Hinesburg

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### **Meeting Minutes February 5, 2014**

**Present:** Chris Haviland, Pat Mainer, Stewart Pierson, Steve Russell, Mike Potvin, Brent Francis

**Absent:** Paul Wieczoreck

#### **Call to Order**

Steve Russell called the meeting of the Town Forest Committee to order at 6:34 p.m. on February 5, 2014 in the Town Hall.

#### **Approval Of The January Minutes**

Stewart moved to approve the minutes of January 8. Mike seconded. The minutes were approved as corrected.

#### **Election of new Officers - 6:35**

Chair – Mike and Chris were nominated: Mike was elected chair.

Stuart made a motion of gratitude to Steve for his work over the many years he's been on the Town Forest. Steve took on the job when his dad died in 1986. He was the lone person until later when a committee was formed. Pat seconded. The motion carried.

Vice Chair – Chris and Brent were nominated. Chris was elected vice chair.

Treasurer – Stuart was nominated and elected.

Secretary – Pat was nominated and elected.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Stuart reported no changes since the last report. We have \$2523.59 in the reserve account. The \$5000 in the budget has not been spent. About \$2000 is left in the kiosks account.

#### **FOTW Annual Report**

Pat read a report from Andy Weis and said she'd send it to committee members. Stuart moved to accept the report from the FOTW. Steve seconded. Brent asked if the grant money had been spent.

Those present said that the grant money for the Maiden had been spent, but not the money for the other trails. Brent asked if there was a time period. Those present agreed to look at the grant to find out if there is a time limit.

## **Updates**

### **Trails Committee marking of the trails in the HTF**

Stewart brought a sample trail sign and reported that Anne Brush will be doing the lettering. The trails committee will pay Anne a little bit and will pay for the material. FOTW has approved the concept. Brent said a prior discussion had concluded that we don't want signs all over the place. Brent noted that having signs with FOTW's logo may raise some people's hackles. Brent asked if the FOTW logo would be on trails the FOTW doesn't maintain. Stewart said it won't. Brent asked for the time frame. Stewart said the signs will be placed in the HTF this May. In response to a question from Pat Stewart said they'd be as high as volunteers could easily reach. Brent said that a bolt is healthy for the tree, as long as the bolt is backed out as the tree grows. Brent asked how potentially renaming trails would affect the project. Stewart said the signs would be redone. Chris moved to approve the trails committee concepts for trail signs pending FOTW's review. Steve seconded. The motion carried.

### **Kiosks**

Pat reported that Ray has finished the five (three at the HTF, one at the LHTF, and one at the Russell trails) kiosks. He'll add signs on the top of those he hasn't already. Pat reported that those kiosks have info. Stewart reported that the Trails committee is working on improved information and a bigger map. The trails committee will fully dress the kiosks.

### **Lack Of Deer In The HTF**

Mike reported that he and Brent talked about their perception that there are fewer deer in the HTF than there used to be. Brent explained that wildlife is part of our management plan. Brent got hold of Dave Adams of Fish and Wildlife and Keith Thompson. Dave is willing, with his supervisor's okay to come to our next (March) meeting. Keith would also like to come to our next meeting. Both said that it is important that we identify wildlife and that we need to have a discussion about what we are managing for. Keith has started to inventory the whole forest. Steve commented that the Select Board had the original concern and asked how we'd respond to the Select Board. Mike suggested we meet with Dave and Keith on our own and then report to the Select Board. Mike will also invite the Select Board to our March meeting. Brent will see what time Dave and Keith will come and what materials are needed.

### **Sub-Committee On Trail Conditions - Further Clarify Their Job And Reporting**

Those present agreed that the sub-committee (Chris, Stewart, Mike and Pat) will report at the June and November meetings, noting problem areas.

### **MOU With FOTW**

Brent reported that he thinks that what we have is fine with a few additions. Those present wordsmithed the document. Pat will wordsmith the document on Brent's template and send it around.

**Other Business**

Steve said that he had asked Andrea about reducing the committee to seven members rather than nine. She said there hasn't been much interest in people filling the vacant slots on the committee. Andrea hasn't gotten back to Steve. Pat noted that she'd like to welcome someone who wanted to join the committee.

**Next Meeting**

Wednesday, March 5, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.

**Adjournment**

Steve moved to adjourn the meeting. Chris seconded. Mike adjourned the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Mainer