



Town Forest Committee

Town Of Hinesburg

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Meeting Minutes March 5, 2014

Present: Mike Potvin, Brent Francis, Paul Wieczoreck, Pat Mainer, Stewart Pierson, Chris Haviland (6:42), Steve Russell (6:49)

Guests: Keith Thompson, Tom Ayer

Call to Order

Mike Potvin called the meeting of the Town Forest Committee to order at 6:37 p.m. on March 5, 2014 in the Town Hall.

Forest Management for Wildlife-Keith Thompson

Keith Thomson gave a presentation on wildlife habitat and managing the HTF for wildlife.

Keith recommends that, if there is money available, the committee hire a wildlife biologist to do further study of wildlife in the HTF. Keith will do a forest inventory and basic wildlife habitat this summer and report in the fall.

Questions and Discussion

Mike asked if Keith had studied the LHTF. Keith said there is more critical habitat there and perhaps less intense use on fewer trails. The opportunities for improvement are less and the impact of recreation is less in the LHTF.

In response to another question Keith noted that the time of year of recreational use makes a difference in its impact.

If we can give Keith data about trails that are currently in use he'll edit his maps.

Keith also discussed public perception of impacts of various forms of recreation. Off trail use had more impact per person than on trail use, but the frequency is less.

Approval Of The February Minutes

Stewart moved to approve the minutes of February 5. Paul seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Updates

Trail Signs - Stewart reported that the trail committee plans to have the signs ready to go by the first of May. They are working closely with the FOTW.

Kiosks - Pat reported that the kiosks are all finished. Steve said he would like to recognize Ray, Stewart, John Dunshee and Mike for putting up the posts. John all but volunteered his time because he was only paid \$60 for each one. Stewart said he will get the names of the folks who did the inserts. Steve will write an article acknowledging all those folks. Steve moved to give a \$100 gift certificate to Ray. Mike seconded. Motion passed with one abstention.

HTFC - Number Of Members? - Steve said that Andrea said they were having trouble finding people to fill our two open slots. Steve talked with Joe Colangelo about having our committee be seven members rather than nine. Steve moved that our committee stay as seven members rather than nine. Stewart seconded. Discussion followed. Steve withdrew his motion. Mike will convey to Joe that we would rather leave our committee at nine in case anyone wants to join our committee.

Frequency Of Meetings? - Steve wondered if we need to meet every month. Brent said that we do need to meet at least once a month. Pat agreed. Paul said he thinks there are more meetings than we need, but he's missed a lot of them. Paul has hard time getting here at 6:30. Is there a day that is better than Wednesdays? Mike will ask Joe about other meeting days and times. Pat will put our meetings on The Hinesburg Record calendar. Mike will talk with Aaron Kimball about updating the website in terms of meeting times and membership. We'll consider options for a different day at a different time.

FOTW

Those present reviewed the draft MOU with the FOTW. Steve moved and Paul seconded to send the revised MOU to FOTW. Motion carried. Mike will take it to Steve Fischer and Mickey Stone.

Other Business

Mike noted that someone backed into the end of the culvert at the HHE Town Forest entrance. Mike temporarily put reflectors to mark the culvert.

Treasurer's Report

Stewart check will check on our finances again before the next meeting. Confusion presently reigns.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, April 2, 7:00- 8:30 p.m. Pat said that she will not be able to attend because of a work conflict. Chris offered to take care of the minutes for that meeting. Paul suggested that we review Keith's presentation. Mike suggested that folks add items to the agenda when he sends it out. Stewart stated that he would also like the kiosk fund balance to be discussed at the next meeting.

Adjournment

Pat moved to adjourn the meeting. Steve seconded. Mike adjourned the meeting at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Mainer