



Town Forest Committee

Town Of Hinesburg
10632 Route 116 Hinesburg VT 05461
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Meeting Minutes May 14, 2014

Present: Mike Potvin, Brent Francis, Paul Wiczoreck, Pat Mainer, Chris Haviland, Steve Russell

Absent: Stewart Pierson

Guests: none

Call To Order

Mike Potvin called the meeting of the Town Forest Committee to order at 7:06 on May, 14, 2014, in the Town Hall.

Discussion/Approval of March Minutes

Chris moved to approve the minutes of March 5. Paul seconded. The minutes were approved as amended.

Discussion/Approval of April Minutes

Pat moved to approve the minutes of April 2. Brent seconded. The minutes were approved as amended.

Treasurer's Report

Mike reported that there is \$2523 in the reserve account, \$5000 in this year's budget and \$2300 in the kiosks account.

Future Expenditures:\$5000 for Eagle Trail Maintenance by June 30th

Mike reported that we will lose the \$5000 if we don't use it by July 1, or request to get it back in fiscal year 2016. Those present agreed to pursue using the money this year if possible for repair/restoration of the east side of the Eagles trail. Mike will contact Keith and will see what he can arrange. Mike will find out if we need to put the project out to bid. Mike will find out if we have a contract can the work be done later and paid for this year. Those present agreed we could spend some money from the kiosk account and the Reserve Account. Steve is willing to be in the loop. Mike will let us know as soon as possible what he and Keith and Steve find out.

LIA - (Land Inventory Assessment Letter from Keith)

Mike reported that Keith will give us a preliminary report in the fall. Keith said we can use students or professionals. Keith gave Mike three names. We don't know the cost. We should do both the LHTF and the HTF. Discussion followed.

Mike will ask the UVM professor that Keith mentioned about students working on inventorying the HTF starting in the fall.

Letter(s) from Milo-Stewart

Mike shared highlights from Milo's letter. Discussion followed. The management plan (4.1.5.) calls for signs in the parking lots. Pat will work with Aaron to update the website. Brent will go through the management plan to check for anything that will help Milo's cause. Brent will list those things for the rest of us.

The management states that there should be permanent signs stating, "No shooting," Brent will look into getting signs for free.

ATV's

Pat reported that ATV's have made a mess at the top of the Economou Road extension and suggested that we follow the management plan and close the HTF to ATV's. Discussion followed. No action was taken.

Updates

Trails/Signs-Stewart- Pat reported that signs are up.

Kiosks/Emergency info- Pat said that Michelle Fisher is working on the signs.

Boundary Marking- Chris reported being able to follow the boundary well near the northeast corner. Those present agreed to communicate with landowners and then committee members should ribbon the boundaries and then ask adjacent landowners if they agree. Landowners will be invited to help paint. Mike will redraft the letter.

Meeting Time/Place Options

Steve moved to move the meetings to the second Wednesday of each month. Pat seconded. The motion was unanimously approved, pending Stewart's approval.

Pat will get info to Aaron to change it on the website, if Stewart agrees.

Other Business

1. Closure of trails and such.

Brent asked, "What was our intent for the Hollis parcel? Are bikes allowed?" Brent will take down the signs and we can ask the Fellowship to take those trails off the FOTW map. Pat will talk to Steve Fischer.

2. Management

Brent noted that someone used to keep apple trees and other areas open to daylight. Brent would like to look at that. Steve will locate those areas on a map and then we can check them out to see what is feasible. Those present wondered if perhaps there is money available from Fish and Wildlife.

3. Concern with Dragon's Tail and Passing the Horizon based on Keith's presentation.

Brent asked if we should tell FOTW that we may close the Dragon's Tail trail. The majority felt we didn't need to do that at this point.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, June 11, 7:00- 8:30 p.m. unless Mike tells us otherwise.

Adjournment

Steve moved to adjourn the meeting. Chris seconded. Mike adjourned the meeting at 9:34.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Mainer