



Town Forest Committee

Town of Hinesburg
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Meeting Minutes – October 14, 2015

- Approved 11/11/15 -

Present: Brent Francis, Julie Gruenholtz , Chris Haviland, Corinne Johansson, Pat Mainer, Stewart Pierson, and Mike Potvin,

Absent: Kevin Hans, Steve Russell

Guests: Matt Sayre, Craig Chevalier, Mickey Stone

Call To Order

Mike Potvin called the meeting to order at the LaPlatte Headwaters Town Forest at 6:35 p.m on October 14, 2015. Those present met with Craig Chevrier and Matt Sayre to discuss Matt's proposal to plant some trees on Town Forest land.

The meeting was temporarily adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

The Committee reconvened at 7:05 p.m. on October 14, 2015, in the third floor conference room in the Town Hall.

FOTW Annual Report

Mickey Stone presented a slide show documenting all the work that FOTW has done in the HTF this year. Pat moved that the committee thank Mickey and the FOTW for the trail network in the HTF. Mike seconded. The motion carried.

LHTF Tree Planting Proposal

Stewart moved to allow Matt Sayre to plant trees per his plan of Sept 9. Chris seconded. The motion failed unanimously.

Additions/Deletions to Agenda

Pat reported that she had met with some representatives of The Trust for Public land, some folks from the State, and Sue Rusten, representing the Trails Committee and Andrea Morgante, and some Trust for Public Land donors at the LHTF. It was basically a show and tell gathering and it was good that someone was there to represent the Town Forest Committee.

Pat also noted that she'd been invited to meet with Andrea, Marty Illick and two engineers on Friday, October 16, but did not yet know what time that meeting would be. The purpose was for the engineers to look at the tire dump in the ravine at the headwaters of the LaPlatte River.

Stewart reported that there is a Scout who wants to work on The Eagle Trail. Work days have been scheduled and there is a need for volunteers from the Town Forest Committee. Stewart will share more details when he has them.

Discussion/Approval of June Minutes

Julie moved to approve the minutes of September 9, 2015. Chris seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report

Stewart presented the Treasurer's report, but did not, at the time, have answers to some questions. Pat moved to table the Treasurer's Report until committee members have a better grip on it. Corinne seconded. The motion was approved. Mike offered to be the contact person for Missy and will update the Google doc spreadsheet.

Updates

- **Fall Festival – Discussion and Review**

Those present agreed that the table at the Fall Harvest Festival and the Scavenger Hunt both appeared to be successful joint projects of the Trails and Town Forest Committees.

- **Hinesburg Town Forest Nomination for the National Registry**

Pat reported that after another visit from Devin Colman the Select Board voted in support of the nomination of the Hinesburg Town Forest to the National Registry of Historic Sites. The nomination has been forwarded to the National Park Service for its consideration.

- **Eagle Trail Near HHE Repair**

Mike said he previously reported that we didn't need to go out for bids unless it was for more than \$10,000. More recently the Town Administrator told Mike that traditionally bids of \$2000 should go out to bid. Mike talked with Bill Atwood who said the cost would depend on whether or not the town would provide stone. Mike learned that Mike Anthony will provide riprap for the work, which would then bring the cost to below \$2000. Julie suggested that Mike, with Mickey's help, write a scope of work document for the project. Mickey suggested that we try to get it done this fall to avoid the June 1 rush.

Julie moved that Mike writes a final scope and bring three bids to the Nov. meeting. Stewart seconded. The motion carried.

Brent moved to rescind the September motion to approve up to \$3800 for the project. Pat seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

- **New County Forester**

Mike tried to inquire but wasn't able to get any info on whether or not a new county forester has been appointed. Discussion about how the lack of a county foresters stymies some of our work followed. Pat suggested Mike contact Mike Snyder.

- **Camping in Town Forests**

Brent suggested adding language under Restricted Uses after 3.2.2.6. Firearms. He proposed adding 3.2.2.7 Camping: With the exception of events approved as Public Events under Section 3.2.2.10 of this Management Plan, camping is prohibited.

Those present proposed also adding 3.2.2.8 Fires: With the exception of events approved as Public Events under Section 3.2.2.10 of this Management Plan, fires are prohibited.

Those present discussed snowmobiling and winter fat tire biking in the HTF.

Mike moved to amend the both HTF and the LHTF management plans to reflect that camping and open fires will be restricted uses requiring approval as part of a public event. Pat seconded. The motion carried. Mike will talk with Trevor about the best time to bring this matter to the Select Board.

New Business

- **Projects for FY 2016 - Request for \$\$**

Brent would like to ask for money for an inventory and wildlife assessment. Chris suggested asking Keith for suggestions for whom to ask to do something like that. Mike would like to compare a present LIA with the one from 2006. Mike will talk with Mike Snyder about when we'll get a County Forester and if not very soon, who we can hire to do an inventory and what it would cost.

Mike noted that other communities contribute to FOTW for their trail maintenance work. Brent said he thinks we need to balance other values with recreation. Pat said she thinks we should get more information before we commit more to recreation and that she wants to get enough info to know if we can earn some money from timber sales. Brent would like money for apple tree release and mast crop tree release.

- **Annual Report**

Mike will write an annual report and requested that anyone with thoughts on what should be in it let him know.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, November 11, 2015, 7:00 p.m., in the third floor conference room in the Town Hall

Adjournment

Julie moved to adjourn the meeting. Stewart seconded. The motion was unanimously approved. Mike adjourned the meeting at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Mainer