



## Town Forest Committee

Town of Hinesburg  
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### Meeting Minutes - February 10, 2016

- Approved 3/09/16 -

**Present:** Brent Francis, Corinne Johansson, Pat Mainer, Stewart Pierson, Steve Russell, Chris Haviland, and Julie Gruenholz

**Absent:** Kevin Hans, Mike Potvin

**Guests:** Jared Poor

#### Call to Order

Pat Mainer called the meeting of the Town Forest Committee to order at 7:06 p.m. on February 10, 2016, in the Town Hall.

#### Additions/Deletions to Agenda

None

#### Del's Ride

Jared Poor represents Del's Ride which is for Cure AAH. The event takes place on September 18<sup>th</sup> 2016. They would like permission to use the HTF as part of their ride course. Stewart moved to allow the ride through the forest. Corinne seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

#### Discussion/Approval of December Minutes

Stewart moved to approve the minutes of December 9, 2015. Corinne seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

#### Treasurer's Report

Stewart reported that there has been no activity in the account this month. Last month it was reported that there is no money in the Regular account, the Projects account had \$1,659.03 and the Reserve account balance was \$2,523.59.

#### Updates

- **Boundary Marking Plan**

Brent reported that he will try to recruit High School students to help with boundary markings. There are many areas that are already marked and many areas that are flagged.

- **Select Board - Management Plan Changes re: Fires and Camping**

Pat and Mike attended the Select Board Meeting. The Select Board approved a change

to section 3.2.2.7 which will prohibit camping, but they said there should be a way to approve unique circumstances. There is a state statute that says fires for cooking are always allowed so they can't approve a change to prohibit fires.

- **Select Board \$5K Budget Request (01/04/16)**

Pat and Mike attended the Select Board Meeting and asked them to approve \$5k to conduct a forest survey to update and inventory of wildlife and habitats and create recommendations for protection and enhancement. This was denied and they suggested that we contact UVM to do work like this.
- **Follow-up to Budget Request Rejection**
  - Pat has some leads on working with UVM students in the spring of 2016.
  - Brent suggested that we investigate hiring a professional to do the survey with funds already available to the HTFC. Several possible professionals to contact were suggested. Corinne and Brent volunteered to call these folks.
- **Kiosk at the Economou Road Trailhead**
  - Chris reported that the old FOTW kiosk has been removed.
  - The old HTF sign still needs to be removed.

#### **Election of HTFC Officers for 2016**

- **Vice-Chair**

Steve nominated Chris. Pat nominated Brent. A paper ballot was conducted. Chris was elected vice-chair.
- **Treasurer**

Steve nominated Brent. Chris Seconded. Brent was elected unanimously.

#### **New Business**

- **Approval of Benches/Viewpoints on Shown on the New Map**

Stewart presented an updated map that shows two benches on the Passing the Horizon trail. Steve moved to approve the map. Stewart seconded. Discussion ensued. The motion carried.
- **Laplatte Headwaters Town Forest Management Plan Action Items**
  - Mark property boundaries.
    - This item is being covered along with the other boundary marking project noted above.
  - Mark boundaries of Woodland STAs and post signs along trails to let the public know they are entering an STA and significant natural community.
    - This might be looked at by UVM students as noted above
  - Remove tires from the gully where it is eroding the main access trail at the intersection of the trail loop at Owl's Knoll. These were placed in the gully under old government recommendations for erosion control. Removal will likely result in increased erosion, but the tires are ineffective and leach pollutants into the stream.
    - This item is being studied.
  - Monitor the wetland restoration areas following NRCS protocols for the first 15 years. The site will be monitored for proper functioning of ditch plugs and depressions, condition of plantings, control of invasive and nuisance plants, and the

- progress of the restoration. Any further monitoring will be identified in future revisions of the management plan as recommended by initial monitoring results.
- This might be looked at by UVM students as noted above
  - Develop an understanding of the habitats found on adjacent lands and identify how plants and animals move between these habitats and habitats on the LHTE.
    - This might be looked at by UVM students as noted above
  - Conduct an inventory of wildlife and habitats, and create recommendations for protection and enhancement. Create a map of wildlife sightings and signs, and significant habitat features that can be added to and updated periodically.
    - This is covered under inventory items noted above.
  - Set up permanent monitoring sites along stream and river channels for cross sections, pebble counts, and photographs and define a monitoring schedule (every 5-10 years) to track channel adjustments. Possibly coordinate with UVM to combine this with education as a student project.
    - This might be looked at by UVM students as noted above
  - Many items were identified as Service Learning Projects.
  - Many items were identified as ongoing projects.

#### **Other Business**

Steve moved to approve up to \$60 to laminate the large LaPlatte Headwaters Map. Stewart seconded. Discussion ensued. The motion was unanimously approved.

#### **Next Meeting**

Wednesday, March 09, 2016, 7:00 p.m., in the third floor conference room in the Town Hall.

#### **Adjournment**

Stewart moved to adjourn the meeting. Steve seconded. The motion was unanimously approved. Pat adjourned the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Julie Gruenholz