



## Town Forest Committee

Town of Hinesburg  
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### Meeting Minutes – March 9, 2016

- Approved 4/13/16 -

**Present:** Mike Potvin, Corinne Johansson, Pat Mainer, Stewart Pierson, Steve Russell, Kevin Hans, Julie Gruenholz, Brent Francis

**Absent:** Chris Haviland

**Guests:** None

#### Call to Order

Pat Mainer called the meeting of the Town Forest Committee to order at 7:01 p.m. on March 09, 2016, in the Town Hall.

#### Additions/Deletions to Agenda

None

#### Discussion/Approval of February Minutes

Stewart moved to approve the minutes of February 10, 2016. Steve seconded. The minutes were amended with minor changes and unanimously approved.

#### Treasurer's Report

Brent reported that there was a \$28 charge for map laminating. There were no other changes. In January 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. Mike reported that we have 2 gallons of paint. Steve has an additional 2 or 3 gallons of paint left over from previous years. There are many areas that are already marked and many areas that are flagged.

- **UVM Email Communications**

Pat reported that we had gotten several emails and that there was no one available to do a forest survey now, but would possibly have availability in the fall.

Brent will contact other schools in the area that could possibly help with this effort.

- **Kiosk at the Economou Road Trailhead**

Stewart reported that in the future the old sign will be removed.

- **Inventory of the HTF**

Corinne reported that she talked to David Brine and Sue Morris about this project. Both are interested but neither can give us a price until the HTF committee creates a more defined scope. Sue suggested training some volunteers to help keep the inventory up to date in the future.

Discussion ensued.

Brent will talk to Keith Thompson and Allan Thompson about getting more direction on developing this scope, since they've been involved with this in the past.

Pat will contact the new county forester who is rumored to start in June to check his or her availability.

- **Laminating of New LHTF Map**

Stewart reported that the map has been laminated.

### **New Business**

- **Hinesburg Town Forest Management Plan Action Items**

Several items from the Hinesburg Town Forest Management Plan action items were discussed. Including these:

- Identify, map and verify all streams, wetlands, seeps and vernal pools in the HTF. Update the 2006 inventory of aquatic habitats. Use an accredited biologist to identify and make the delineations of each aquatic system. (4.4.4)
  - This will be included in the forest inventory scope.
- Update 2006 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. (4.3.4)
  - This will be included in the forest inventory scope.
- Maintain a list of research projects that have been completed at the HTF. (4.2.4)
  - Pat has a list of service/research projects already written.
- Continually educate the public about the use of the Town Forest and issues related to its management via the Town Website, The Hinesburg Record, Front Porch Forums, The Town Report and user group communications. Keep the information up-to-date as the seasons and conditions change. (4.5.4)
  - This gets done through Front Porch Forum during specific seasons (like hunting season).
  - Pat said she would post educational reminders on FPF about trail usage during specific times of year, like mud season.
  - Trail Hub does not get updated outside the summer season. Pat will contact FOTW to see if this can get updated at other times of year.

### **Other Business**

Pat received a letter from the American Tree Farm System that our tree farm needs to be re-inspected in 2016 so it doesn't lose certification. It was last inspected in 2004. Certification indicates that the land is being managed sustainably. Steve will contact the American Tree Farm System and get more details.

**Next Meeting**

Wednesday, April 13, 2016, 7:00 p.m., in the third floor conference room in the Town Hall.

**Adjournment**

Stewart moved to adjourn the meeting. Mike seconded. The motion was unanimously approved. Pat adjourned the meeting at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Julie Gruenholz