



Town Forest Committee

Town of Hinesburg
10632 Route 116 Hinesburg VT 05461
802.482.2281 | hinesburg.org

Meeting Minutes - June 9, 2016

- Approved 7/14/16 -

Present: Mike Potvin, Corinne Johansson, Pat Mainer, Julie Gruenholz, and Brent Francis

Absent: Stewart Pierson, Steve Russell, Kevin Hans, and Chris Haviland

Guests: None

Call to Order

Pat called the meeting of the Town Forest Committee to order at 7:11 p.m. on June 9, 2016, in the Town Hall.

Additions/Deletions to Agenda

Pat asked to discuss information she obtained from New County Forester. See items below where Ethan Tapper is mentioned.

Discussion/Approval of April Minutes

Mike moved to approve the minutes of May 12, 2016. Brent seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report

Brent reported that the Regular Account has a -\$0.07 balance, the Capital Fund Account has a \$1,659.03 balance and the Deferred Account has a \$2,523.59 balance. Mike moved to approve the treasurer's report. Corinne seconded. The treasurer's report was unanimously approved.

Updates

- **HTF Boundary Marking Plan**
Brent reported that he contacted CVU about helping with boundary marking.
No boundary markings were done in the last month.
- **Communication with UVM**
Nothing was done on this in the past month to promote Service Learning Projects.
- **Tree Farm Status**
Pat reported that she paid the outstanding \$20 that we owed the Tree Farm organization.
In May, Pat sent all committee members an informational brochure on what being a Tree Farm entails.

Don Tobi has been selected to inspect our tree farm this year.

Mike moved to have Pat contact Don to get this inspection done. Corinne seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

- **LHTF Boundary Marks**

Stewart was not in attendance to report on this.

Mike reported that there is a bridge in the LHTF that the trails committee wanted rocks placed at the entrance and exit of the bridge. Mike was wondering if mountain bikes are being used in the LHTF, which is not approved. It was previously decided that the soils in the LHTF are not appropriate for mountain biking. This might need to be addressed in the future.

- **Laminating Cost Story**

Pat reported that the cost of laminating has been taken care of.

- **July 14 and August 11 Meeting Attendance**

Pat will evaluate proposed attendance at the meetings as they get closer. Ethan Tapper would like to attend an upcoming meeting and Pat will make sure we will have quorum before inviting him to attend.

- **"Substance" use at HTF HHW trailhead - Signs?**

Pat talked to Jeremy Hulshof of the Hinesburg Police Department. They cannot enforce open container laws in the Town Forest, but they can enforce DWI laws when folks that have drinking, leave.

Brent would like to post signs indicating that living sober and driving safely are a good health choices.

- **Whitetail Landscaping Water Bar Repair**

The water bar repair was not completed in the most ideal way. The HTF committee needs to be more specific with job scope and incorporate specific Acceptable Management Practices if we have work like this done in the future.

- **Invasives in LHTF**

The HTF committee does not feel it is a good use of funds to mow this specific, small area if there is not a town-wide mission to curtail wild parsnips. In the Champlain Valley wild parsnips need to be mowed twice: right after July 1st and before they go to seed again later in the summer. This would run approximately \$2,000 each year.

Pat will contact the Select Board to see if there is a town plan is to curtail wild parsnips.

In the March 2017 meeting we will discuss the release of the newly planted trees in that area.

- **Forest Wildlife and Recreation Inventories and Forestry Management Plan**

We now know the County Forester is not available to help us with this inventory.

UVM might be available to help us with this, but they would only be an accessory to a professional inventory.

Keith Thompson advised us that we should not harvest trees for money to help with this initiative unless a total inventory is completed first.

A plan will be formed of what exactly needs to be done before we give a

presentation to the select board to ask them to supplement the funds we have already saved. A subcommittee of Brent, Corrine, Pat and Mike has been formed to finalize this plan. This subcommittee will meet on 13June2016 at 7pm in the Town Hall.

This will be discussed with Ethan Tapper when he attends a future meeting.

New Business

- **Butternut Release in the HTF**
This item has been tabled until next meeting.
- **Roles of Town Forest and Trails Committees**
This item has been tabled until next meeting.

Other Business

None

Next Meeting

Thursday, July 14, 2016, 7:00 p.m., in the Town Hall, bottom floor conference room.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted by Julie Gruenholz