



Town Forest Committee

Town of Hinesburg
10632 Route 116 Hinesburg VT 05461
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Meeting Minutes - July 14, 2016

- Approved 8/18/16 -

Present: Pat Mainer, Chair and Brent Francis, Kevin Hans, Chris Haviland, Corinne Johansson, and Mike Potvin

Absent: Julie Gruenholtz, Stewart Pierson, Steve Russell

Guests: Ethan Tapper, Chittenden County Forester

Call to Order

Pat called the meeting of the Town Forest Committee to order at 7:02 pm on July 14, 2016.

Additions/Deletions to Agenda

Mike requested that the location of the HTFC meeting be changed from the third floor conference room where the meetings were previously held to the first floor conference where the HTFC meetings are currently held.

Guest Presentation

- **Introductions:** The HTFC members introduced themselves to Ethan before he introduced himself to the group. Ethan described his position as the new Chittenden County Forester including how he views his role with regards to the Hinesburg Town Forests. Ethan sees his role as managing the HTF for wildlife, recreation, and timber management. He said that he can help identify risks and advantages that the Hinesburg town forests are currently facing and can help to balance ecological and economic opportunities.
- **Inventory Work:** As per the existing HTF Management Plan, the HTFC is obligated to have a current assessment of the HTF performed. The HTFC is in the process of securing a private forestry service to conduct an inventory of the forest including the wildlife and habitats therein in order to complete the assessment. A subcommittee of the HTFC has drafted a letter to send to the private foresters recommended by Keith Thompson, the former Chittenden County Forester. Ethan has offered to help flesh out the letter to include specific details to be included in the HTF inventory. Ethan will review the HTF Management Plan before making recommendations to the HTFC. He will present the letter at the August 11, 2016 HTFC meeting

- Proposals will be sent to the following private foresters:
Arrowwood Environmental, Huntington, Vt
Charlie Hancock, North Woods Forestry, Montgomery Center, Vt
Allen Thompson, Northern Stewards, Waterbury, Vt
Rick Morrill and Dawn Morgan, Northern Forest Conservation Services, Craftsbury, Vt

Discussion/Approval of April Minutes

Mike moved to approve the minutes of June 9, 2016. Chris seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report

Brent reported that there have been no changes in HTFC Regular Account and the HTFC Capital Fund Account. The \$1500 that the town approved for the HTFC 2016 -17 budget has not as of yet been recorded on the Committee's spreadsheet. Corinne moved to approve the treasurer's report. Mike seconded. The treasurer's report was unanimously approved.

Updates

- **HTF Boundary marking plan**

Brent reported that no boundary markings were done in the last month.

- **HTF designation as National Historic**

Pat reported that the HTF was officially listed in the National Register of Historic Places on June 7, 2016.

- **Communication with UVM**

The sub-committee (members: Pat, Chris, and Corinne) was not able to meet this past month so there was nothing new to report to about Service Learning Projects. The sub-committee plans to meet prior to the August HTFC meeting.

- **Tree Farm status**

Pat reported that when she spoke with Don Tobi of the Tree Farm organization he informed her that we needed to have a Forestry Plan for the HTF. Ethan said that he would contact Don and talk to him about the Forestry Plan.

- **Signs for HHW area of HTF**

Brent would like to post signs encouraging "healthy choices" at the HHW parking lot of the HTF. This comes from a concern about possible drinking and driving situations around or near the town forest. Brent reported that he has searched online and has not as of yet found suitable signs. He asked for input from the HTFC members. Brent will continue to research possible signs. He will update the committee on his findings at the August HTFC meeting.

- **Invasives in LHTF - Town of Hinesburg's policy on wild parsnip eradication**

Pat reported that the town of Hinesburg does not have a specific policy on wild parsnip (invasive species) eradication. Ethan mentioned that he thought funding for invasive species eradication may be possible through EQUIP, Environmental Quality Incentive Program. He suggested that we could research this online. Pat offered to look into this.

New Business

- **Butternut release in the HTF**

Brent would like to include apple tree release to butternut tree release. There are not many apple trees in the HTF and they may be of historical value as well as providing a food source for wildlife. Brent will release the trees after their locations have been identified. Committee members will help identify trees. A motion was made by Brent to release the apple and butternut trees in the HTF after the specific locations of the trees have been identified. Chris seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

- **Roles of Town Forest and Trails Committees**

This item has been tabled until next meeting.

Other Business

None

Next Meeting

Thursday, August 11, 2016, 7:00 p.m., in the Town Hall, first floor conference room.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted by Corinne Johansson and Mike Potvin.