



## Town Forest Committee

Town of Hinesburg  
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### Meeting Minutes – October 13, 2016

- Approved 11/10/16 -

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

**Absent:** Steve Russell, Chris Haviland

**Guests:** Ethan Tapper – County Forester, Maggie Gordon – Hinesburg Resident, Tyler Brown – UVM Student, Isaac Estey – UVM Student, Beth Romaker – UVM Student, and Ben Craig – UVM Student

#### Call to Order

Pat called the meeting of the Town Forest Committee to order at 7:02 p.m. on October 13, 2016, in the Town Hall.

#### Additions/Deletions to Agenda

None.

#### Comments from the Public - Maggie Gordon: Trail Leaf Blowing

Maggie raised concern that if the leaves are blown off the trails, this invites folks to use the trails during hunting season, which may be a conflict of interest. Pat mentioned that the FOTW posts on Trail Hub during hunting season that folks need to be cautious. She also noted that the leaves are blown so the trails are maintained according to best practices. The consensus was that perhaps there could be more signage and a post on Front Porch Forum.

This will be on the November meeting as an item to discuss for both human safety and forest ecology.

Corrine will post signs similar to last year, at the trailheads, notifying forest users that it is hunting season. Pat will post on Front Porch Forum.

#### UVM Students Working on Study of Invasive Species in the LHFF

The visiting UVM students reported that they are mapping the abundance of invasive species in the LHFF. They will create a map showing location and abundance of invasive species. This can be used in

the future to try to eradicate these invasive species. They will also provide information as to how this could be done. They plan to present their final report at the December meeting.

### **Discussion/Approval of September Minutes**

Stewart moved to approve the minutes of September 8, 2016. Corrine seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

### **Open Meeting Law Details that Pertain to our Committee**

Corinne and Pat reported that they attended a meeting to clarify the open meeting laws. These are the items that are most pertinent to our current practices:

- No "Other Business" at end. Additions/deletions must be first order of business.
- Public comment opportunity after each agenda item.
- Must have quorum number of votes to pass a motion (unanimous if only have five).

### **Treasurer's Report**

Brent reported that there is a total of \$6,182.32 in the HTF account that includes \$1,500 the annual maintenance line, \$2,523.59 in deferred, and \$2,159.03 in the capital fund. Corrine made the motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Mike seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **Updates**

- **Boundary Marking**
  - Mike reported that there are no updates for this item.
- **CVU Students Ideas for Signs**
  - Brent reported that there are no updates for this item.
- **Harvest Festival - Follow-Up**
  - Mike and Stewart reported that a good time was had by all.
- **LHTF Boundaries - Is There Any Evidence?**
  - Stewart reported that the boundaries have not been marked since the time of the sale, about 20 years ago, so they have mostly disappeared. The UVM students reported that they have seen some markings during their survey, but they are sporadic.
- **Communication with CCC**
  - Pat reported that CCC is eager to cooperate with us and that they keep to designated trails.

### **New Business**

- **Proposals for the Inventory**
  - Ethan reported that an RFP was drafted and sent out. He got 3 proposals back. He gave recommendations as to which proposal he thought would be best for our budget and needs. Ethan will forward the proposals to the committee

members and we will discuss this at the November meeting.

- **Kindness Rock Project <<http://thekindnessrocksproject.com>>**
  - Mike reported that The Kindness Rock Project approached him and asked if the committee had any objections to this project. The committee neither encourages nor prohibits this practice.
- **Economou Road Trailhead Kiosk**
  - Pat reported that the kiosk was hit by a car. The woman who hit the kiosk will pay for the repairs.

### **Next Meeting**

Thursday, November 10, 2016, 7:00 p.m., in the Town Hall, bottom floor conference room.

### **Adjournment**

Mike moved to adjourn the meeting. Stewart seconded. The motion was unanimously approved. Pat adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Julie Gruenholz