



Town Forest Committee

Town of Hinesburg
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Meeting Minutes – January 12, 2017

- Approved 2/09/17 -

Present: Pat Mainer (Chair), Corinne Johansson, Stewart Pierson, Julie Gruenholz, Kevin Hans, Brent Francis, and Chris Haviland

Absent: Steve Russell

Guests: Aaron Townsend

Call to Order

Pat called the meeting of the Town Forest Committee to order at 7:14 p.m. on January 12, 2017.

Additions/Deletions to Agenda

There were none.

Election of 2017 Officers

Stewart moved and Chris seconded the following officer slate:

- Chairman: Pat Mainer
- Vice Chairman: Corrine Johansson
- Secretary: Chris Haviland
- Treasurer: Brent Francis

The motion was unanimously approved.

Public Comment

There was none.

Discussion/Approval of December 8, 2016 Minutes

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

Treasurer's Report

Brent reported that other than the pending initial payment to LMRM for the Inventory Contract, there were no changes. The most recent report stated that there is a total of \$6,182.32 in the HTF account which includes \$1,500 in the annual maintenance line, \$2,523.59 in deferred, and \$2,159.03 in the capital fund. \$1,500 will be paid shortly to LMRM from the annual maintenance line. Stewart moved and Chris seconded to approve this report. The report was unanimously approved.

Updates

- **RFP/Contract for Inventory:** Pat will contact LMRM and report progress next meeting.
- **HTF Boundary Marking:** Nothing new to report. Chris will head up this project.
- **CVU Students Ideas for Signs:** Brent has nothing new to report.
- **Butternut & Apple Tree Release in the HTF:** Brent reported that he has been working on this and will report when it is complete.
- **Pitch to UVM Students on January 19:** Pat reported that Ethan will not be available to do the pitch and Pat will be there instead. The pitch is have the students research recreation and its impact on the HTF.
- **FOTW Annual Report:** Mickey Stone will give the report at the February meeting.

New Business

- **UVM Students' Invasives in LHTF Report:** Among other things, the report states:
 - Trees need to be planted to shade out the reed canary grass. See Arbor Day Reforestation Grant below.
 - Buckthorn needs to be removed. There was a suggestion to pay for a group of UVM students to take the Game of Logging course in exchange for their manpower to remove buckthorn. It was also suggested that we could hire someone to clear the buckthorn with a Brown Brontosaurus.
- **Arbor Day Reforestation Grant:** We might be able to get a grant from the Arbor Day Foundation to plant trees which will help shade out the reed canary grass. Ethan offered to spearhead writing this grant. He proposed attempting to get a grant to obtain the trees and fund VYCC to do the planting. Pat will tell Ethan that we are interested in his proposal. Pat will find out what the next step will be and what he needs from us.
- **Milone and MacBroom Report:** This report made recommendation that effect pages 63 & 74 of the management plan.
- **LHTF Management Plan Amendment (pgs. 63 & 74 re: tires):** The management plan says we should remove the tires from the gully. The Milone and MacBroom report recommends to leaving the tires in place. Chris moved to get these changes approved by the select board:
 - Remove the paragraphs on page 63 & 74 that advise removing tires, as per the recommendation of the Milone and MacBroom report. These original paragraphs should remain in an appendix with notations at their original location, referencing the appendix.

Stewart seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

- **LHTF Management Plan Amendment Regarding Invasives:** Ethan drafted an amendment to the management plan which directs the town forest committee to remove invasives in the LHTF. Stewart moved and Corrine seconded to get select board approval to add Ethan's language as an amendment to the LHTF management plan. The motion was unanimously approved.

Next Meeting

February 9, 2017, 7:00, Town Hall Lowest level conference room

Adjournment

Stewart moved to adjourn the meeting. Chris seconded. The motion was unanimously approved. Pat adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Julie Gruenholz