



## Town Forest Committee

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

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### Meeting Minutes – February 9, 2017

- Approved 3/09/17 -

**Present:** Pat Mainer (Chair), Corinne Johansson, Stewart Pierson, Brent Francis, Chris Haviland, and Steve Russell

**Absent:** Julie Gruenholz, Kevin Hans

**Guests:** Mikey Stone

#### Call to Order

Pat called the meeting of the Town Forest Committee to order at 7:06 p.m. on February 9, 2017.

#### Additions/Deletions to Agenda

NONE

#### Public Comment

NONE

#### FOTW Annual Report

Mikey Stone reported on Fellowship of the Wheel activities during the April-October 2016 work season.

##### LATE APRIL-MAY

Removed fallen trees and debris on all trails including leaf removal, approximately 10 days. Removed debris and straightened up all three parking lots. Two days to remove debris and leaves in all the erosion bars and side drainage areas on the Eagle trail (Economo to HHW road).

##### JUNE

Two community workdays with over 40 volunteers. Maintenance work on Back Door and Wolf Tree. Both of these trails are the farthest away from parking areas and sometimes get neglected. With many down trees from storms the trails have been affected. Regular benching and out-slopping was performed on all. Wolf tree was improved in areas that were gouged out from erosion with over 20 trees pruned or cut due to winter storm damage on plateau area.

##### JULY

Missing link had 4 bridges replaced and rebuilt due to rotting with the entire trail out-slopped to shed water. Similar work to Lost Trail and Passing the Horizon. Approximately 12 days for all.

## **AUGUST**

Two workdays with Dealer.com with over 50 volunteers working on Homestead Trail. Damaging wind and rainstorm. Removed debris in the trails. HHE, HHW, Eagle trail, PTH, Back Door and Homestead were all trimmed so brambles would not cut bikers and hikers.

## **SEPTEMBER**

Debris removal, two days from another wind storm. Completed upper Homestead tread maintenance. Three days total.

## **OCTOBER**

Tree and debris removal. Total of 5 days for leaf removal.

### **Planned 2017 Projects**

- Regular yearly trail and tread maintenance throughout the year of all the trails
- Extra work on Enchanted Forest, Upper Wolf Tree, Dragon's Tail, Back Door and Sheep Thrills

### **Discussion/Approval of January 12, 2017 Minutes**

Stewart moved to approve the minutes of January 12, 2017. Corrine 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. Corrine moved and Chris seconded to approve this report. The report was reviewed with no action.

### **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 in the spring.
- **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:** Ethan and Pat met with CVU Students at the HTF on Jan 6th. They will come to the March and April meetings to review their progress
- **Arbor Day Reforestation Grant:** Pat reported that Ethan Tapper said the deadline for the Arbor Day grant has passed but we can apply for it next year.
- **LHTF and HTF Invasives:** Need to create a sub-committee to consider spring project to work on control of honeysuckle, buckthorn, Japanese Knotweed and other invasives. Discussion of posting info on invasives in the kiosks with pictures and request for public feedback on sightings. Corrine will look for good material to post. Also need advice from Ethan for best approach.

## **New Business:**

- **HTF Management Plan Amendment re: Invasives:**

Amendment to the HTF management plan (same language as previously approved for LHTF plan) which directs the town forest committee to remove invasives in the HTF as dictated by the judgement of the Town Forest Committee in consideration of available research. Stewart moved and Brent seconded to get select board approval to add Ethan's language as an amendment to the HTF management plan. The motion was unanimously approved.

- **Stewart's Hinesburg Record Article**

Stewart, representing the Trails Committee, wanted to inform the Town Forest Committee that an article to the local paper will be submitted with updates regarding Trails Committee activities in the LHTF

- **Conflict of Interest Policy**

Pat sent the policy to committee members. There were no questions.

- **Maple Sugaring in HTF.** Brent noted that sugaring is mentioned in the HTF Management Plan and that it might be taken into consideration for the HTF Inventory project prior to finalizing plans that result from the inventory. Pat to add for new business at the next meeting.

## **Next Meeting**

March 9, 2017, 7:00 p.m., Town Hall Lowest level conference room

## **Adjournment**

Steve moved to adjourn the meeting. Stewart seconded. The motion was unanimously approved. Pat adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Chris Haviland