



Town Forest Committee

Town of Hinesburg
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Meeting Minutes – December 14, 2017

- Approved 1/11/18 -

Present: Pat Mainer (Chair), Steve Russell, Brent Francis, Corinne Johansson, Julie Gruenholz

Absent: Stewart Pierson, Kevin Hans, Chris Haviland, Aaron Townsend

Guests: Darren Johnson, Jonathan Trefry

Call To Order

Pat called the meeting of the Town Forest Committee to order at 7:07 p.m. on December 14, 2017.

Additions/Deletions to Agenda

Add discussion of the Recreation Study Grant.

Public Comment

There was none.

Discussion/Approval of November 9, 2017 Minutes

Steve moved to approve the minutes of November 9, 2017. Brent seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report

Brent reported that there is a total of \$982.87 in the regular/annual account, \$929.03 in the kiosk/capital account, and \$0 in the reserve account. Steve moved and Corinne seconded to approve this report. The report was unanimously approved.

Updates:

- **Boundary Marking:** Steve reported that he recently had 2.5 miles of boundaries marked on his land by Cathleen of Vermont Family Forests, who is a Vermont Certified Forester. This is expected to cost between \$500 and \$600. It was discussed that perhaps the committee could hire this group to mark the remaining boundaries in the town forest.
- **Date for Inventory and Assessment Community Presentation:** Corinne reported that she is working to schedule the presentation of this report to the community on March 21, 2018. Ethan Tapper and Harris Roen are willing to assist.
- **Signs:** Brent reported that the new signs have arrived. He will arrange to get them installed.

- **Follow-up on Michael Bissonette's Proposal:** Julie moved to not allocate \$2,000 each year for a committee coordinator as proposed by Michael Bissonette. Steve seconded. It is the understanding of the committee that this person would act as a liaison between all Hinesburg town committees and take minutes to help comply with open meeting minute laws. Discussion ensued. More information on the duties of this potential person and how they would interact with the committee would have been helpful. There were 4 votes for and 1 member abstaining. The motion failed.
- **Budget Request:** The following are all potential items the committee would consider spending money on in the next fiscal year:
 - FOTW Donation
 - Boundary Marking
 - Sugaring Feasibility Study
 - Maintenance Required Due to Future Storm Damage
 - Logging Preparation
 - Apple Tree Orchard Mowing
 - Invasive Species Control

Steve moved to request \$1,500 for annual expenditures. Corinne seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

- **Donation to FOTW:** Steve moved for the committee to donate \$300 to FOTW. Corinne seconded. Positive discussion about the work FOTW has done in the forest ensued. There were 4 votes for and 1 vote against. The motion failed.
- **Sugaring Feasibility:** Potential Sugaring in the HTF was discussed. A lot more information is needed before it can be deemed feasible or not. This topic will be discussed in future committee meetings and after community input is gathered at the Inventory and Assessment Community Presentation.
- **Recreation Study Grant:** In the spring of 2017 the committee applied for a grant from the US Forest Service to study recreation in the HTF. This grant would be used to answer the question: “Is recreation in the forest interfering with sustainability?” This would be answered with a plan on how to manage recreation in the HTF. Hinesburg was initially denied the grant. 10 towns were chosen and Hinesburg was number 11. At the time we were told that if one of the towns declined the grant, it would be awarded to us. One of the towns did in fact drop out. The grant comes with a required match from the town. This match can be paid in many non-dollar ways, including hours of volunteer work. Steve moved and Julie seconded to accept this grant. The motion was unanimously approved.

New Business:

- **Advertising on Kiosks:** This item has been tabled until next meeting.
- **HTF Southern Boundary Discrepancy:** This item has been tabled until next meeting.
- **Proposal for UVM Students in January:** Pat reported that she is looking for ideas for UVM student projects for this coming semester. She is generating a list of ideas.

Next Meeting

January 11, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the lower level conference room at the Hinesburg Town Hall.

Adjournment

Steve moved to adjourn the meeting. Corrine seconded. The motion was unanimously approved. Pat adjourned the meeting at 8:55pm.

Respectfully submitted by Julie Gruenholz