



## Town Forest Committee

Town of Hinesburg

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### Meeting Minutes - September 13, 2018

- Approved 10/11/18 -

**Present:** Pat Mainer (Chair), Chris Haviland, Corinne Johansson, Jon Trefry, Aaron Townsend, Darren Johnson, Stewart Pierson

**Absent:** Brent Francis

**Visitors:** Ethan Tapper, Erik Engstrom, VAST, Aaron Miller

**Call to Order:** Pat called the meeting of the Town Forest Committee to order at 7:20 pm on September 13, 2018

**Additions/Deletions to Agenda:** None

**Public Comment:** Erik Engstrom of VAST reviewed their request to utilize the Old Economou Road (Eagles Trail) as part of the VAST trail system.

**Discussion/Approval of July 12, 2018 Minutes:** Jon moved to approve the amended minutes of July 12, 2018. Darren seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** No report.

#### Updates:

- **VAST Request for Access to Old Economou Road:** Discussion of Erik's presentation. Pat moved that the committee inform VAST and the Select Board that we are open to the proposal to utilize the Old Economou Road (Eagles Trail) as part of the VAST network with the provisions that the trail not be widened, that the allowed use begins at the Birmingham property boundary and runs to the Economou Road boundary gate not to include the section from the entry to the Economou Road at the Birmingham boundary to the Hayden Hill Road West gate. That there be a gate installed at the Birmingham property boundary. Jon seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

- **Timber Harvest:** Ethan Tapper updated on the planned 2019 winter harvest. Pre-harvest public walk and interface with FOTW. Ethan is recommending a mill tally as the most favorable monetary plan go with. Ethan presented the bids from four loggers, Tim Brown (Hinesburg), Mike Quitt (Huntington), Jeremie Fitzgerald (Huntington) and Graham Letner (Duxbury). The first three utilize Cable Skidders, Letner uses a mechanized “Cut to Length” system. After some discussion, Jon moved that the committee present the quotes to Renee Marshall for consideration at the Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> Select Board meeting with the committees recommendation to utilize Tim Brown. Stewart seconded. The motion carried unanimously.  
Stewart moved that the committee recommend Ethan Tapper for a contract with the Town of Hinesburg for “forestry services.” Chris seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- **LHTF 2018 floodplain tree planting:** No recent communication. Probably September/October. Ongoing.
- **Carpenter Carse Library program:** Ethan’s presentation was well received with approximately 10 in attendance.
- **HTF walk with Ethan Tapper 1:00 - 3:00 - September 29**
- **LHTF 2018 floodplain Tree Planting - Memorandum of Agreement and Stewardship Agreement:** Winooski Natural Resource Conservation Dist. will be sending an MOU for the tree planting project. Planting to take place late October 2018.
- **Recreation planning grant update:** Pat updated.
- **LHTF Management Plan:** No progress. Needs to be updated every five years. Need to incorporate invasive species info and the “tire gully”
- **Boundary Marking:** COMPLETE with the exception of disputed southern boundary section.
- **Shingles Dumped on Economou Road:** Town crew removed the shingles.

#### **New Business:**

- **The Nature Conservancy - LHTF floodplain forest restoration:** Pat and Ethan updated
- **Vermont Woodlands Association Tree Farm (American Tree Farm Association):** Ethan is certified to inspect the HTF and he will approve the certification. Jon moved that the committee approve the \$30 fee. Corrine seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Keys for HTF Gates:** The locks were corroded and did not work when the HPD went on a rescue. Pat replaced the locks.

**Next Meeting:** October 11, 2018, 7:00, Town Hall Lowest level conference room

**Adjournment:** Aaron moved to adjourn the meeting. Corrine seconded. The motion was unanimously approved. Pat adjourned the meeting at 9:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Chris Haviland