

# **TOWN FOREST COMMITTEE**

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*MINUTES December 5, 2012*

## ***Opening***

Steve Russell called the meeting of the Town Forest Committee to order at 6:35 on December 5, 2012 in the Town Hall.

## ***Present***

Pat Mainer  
Jason Reed  
Steve Russell  
Stewart Pierson  
Brent Francis  
Chuck Reiss  
Paul Wiczoreck (7:10)

## ***Absent***

Brooke Scatchard

## ***Guests***

Mike Potvin  
Jim Collins  
Chris Haviland

## ***Approval of minutes of November 7***

Stewart moved to approve the minutes of November 7. Brent seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

## ***Update on Salvage operations***

Keith was not present but sent an update via email. Steve had been up there in the last few days. Bill will pick up half a load of hardwood logs when he has the rest of a load. Steve reported that we received \$733.44 revenue from the hardwood logs.

Steve reported that in our reserve fund we have \$1754. The bill for \$1080 we paid to Arrowhead hasn't been taken out yet so we really have about \$700. Our regular budget has \$2000. The capital budget has \$4200.

Steve signed the contract with Bill for the LHTF salvage work. It may turn out to be an unprofitable project for Bill if there is a lot of red rot. Bill will keep Keith updated and Keith will keep us updated.

## ***Update on the HTF boundaries***

Steve said he hasn't done anymore work on the boundaries. Chuck didn't find the boundary either on the western side. He is planning to contact adjacent landowners. Brent has contacted some adjacent landowners and will try to walk and flag the boundary of the Hollis parcel.

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Steve asked what the committee thought about paint. Steve has used the latex based paint which doesn't last as long as the oil based. Those present agreed to use oil based paint because it lasts longer. Steve will order five gallons of red boundary paint.

## ***Update on the Signs/Kiosk***

Stewart got a quote of \$2200 each for signs at LHTF and other trailheads in town. Chuck priced out 4' x 31/2' signs at \$1700, each, installed, wholesale. Jason objected to a committee member's business contracting work for us, particularly after the disrespect shown to FOTW representatives in a similar relationship. Discussion followed. We have \$4200 for the three trailheads.

Steve asked for someone who would pull together all the things that need to be on the signs at the HTF trailheads. Pat said she'd do that. Stewart has all the info that needs to be on the LHTF signs.

Paul asked which forests these are for. Steve said the Trails Committee has taken charge of the signs at the LHTF. Chuck thinks that the signs should be the same at both Town Forests. Chuck will put specs, including installation, together and distribute them to the committee for comments, so we can post a RFP (request for proposal) on Front Porch Forum and the Town website.

## ***Update on Entryways and signs leaving the Town Forest and Speed limit signs going to and from the Hinesburg Town Forest***

Stewart reported that Mike Anthony said that first we need to go to the Selectboard and then they have the police do a traffic survey and then we go back to the Selectboard if we want any additional speed limit signs. Brent asked if we could ask the police to add a speed limit sign on the way from the Town Forest.

Stewart proposes three signs on Town Forest land near each trailhead saying PLEASE DRIVE SLOWLY, ANIMALS AND CHILDREN UP AHEAD. The bid came to \$502 for three signs. Brent asked if we could get signs via the highway department. Stewart and Pat will look for cheaper signs on-line or elsewhere.

## ***Update on Maps***

Pat reported that she hadn't done any work on maps yet, but will. Brent wants to rename trails to reflect the history. Brent will find out where that is in the plan.

## ***Update on Forest Committee budget item (Under "buildings & grounds***

Steve will go before the Selectboard on Monday night asking for \$5000 for trail maintenance and repair. If anyone wants to join him, that would be fine. Steve will talk with Lenore before then to see if she would write a grant.

Paul proposed adding more money for signs. Discussion followed. Paul moved to ask Steve to ask for another \$2000 for signs, in addition to \$5000 for maintenance at Monday's meeting. Motion carried.

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## ***Other Business***

Paul said he doesn't feel good about Bill's concern that he won't make money with the LHTF salvage project. Paul wonders why we would do this. Steve explained that Bill, Keith and Steve signed the contract yesterday and there are concerns that there might be red rot, but there might not be. Bill and Keith will stay in close contact about how the trees are coming out. If there is a lot of red rot then we'll just want the trails cleared and the bat habitat maintained. Keith will keep us informed. Paul is still concerned that the job won't get done right.

## ***Next Meeting***

Wednesday, January 2, 2013 at 6:30

## ***Adjournment***

Pat moved to adjourn. Stewart seconded. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:14.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Mainer