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Town of Hinesburg
Town Forest Committee
10632 Rte 116
Hinesburg, VT 05461

March 27, 2013

Re: Firearm Use and Loitering Concerns at the Hinesburg Town Forest

Dear Town of Forest Committee:

Hinesburg Chief of Police Frank Koss and I recommend that the Town Forest Committee endorse two (2) actions associated with the use of Hinesburg's Town Forest. I would ask for you to include us as part of your April 4th agenda so we can discuss these issues with the committee.

First, we recommend establishing operating hours of 6am – 9pm for the parking area on Hayden Hill Road West. By instituting prescribed hours, the Hinesburg Community Police Department will be able to work with the residents on Hayden Hill West to protect the character of their neighborhood to dissuade 'afterhours' loitering in and around the neighborhood, while enhancing the public's use of the Hinesburg Town Forest for its intended purposes.

Secondly, we recommend the Town adopt an ordinance prohibiting the use of firearms in the Hinesburg Town Forest for all purposes excluding hunting during hunting season(s). While Section 3.2.2.6 of the Town Forest Management Plan states this desire, only an ordinance, duly adopted by the Selectboard, grants the necessary authority to enforce Section 3.2.2.6 of the Management Plan to the police department.

I will place an agenda item on the April 15, 2013, Hinesburg Selectboard meeting to open discussion with the Selectboard on both of these topics. Your support and/or recommendation(s) would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

/s/

Joe Colangelo,
Town Administrator

Cc: Chief Koss, Hinesburg Community Police
Hinesburg Selectboard