

Mission Statement Review  
Hinesburg Town Forest Committee  
September, 2013

*The Mission of The Hinesburg Town Forest Committee is established for the purpose of providing stewardship for both the 837-acre Hinesburg Town Forest (HTF) and the 301-acre LaPlatte Headwaters Town Forest (LHTF). The Committee shall serve in an advisory capacity to the Selectboard, Commissions, or Town staff as appropriate in matters relating to the HTF and LHTF, and in consultation with the Chittenden County Forester shall make recommendations to the Selectboard for management of the Town Forests.*

In 2013 the Town Forest Committee has worked on the following projects:

- **Salvage and trail clearing from the July 2012 storm damage to the LHTF and the Economor Road entrance of the HTF is completed.** The trail in the LHTF is restored and bat habitat is improved. County Forester Keith Thompson and logger Bill Torrey collaborated on this project.
- **The FOTW began trail improvement work on *The Maiden*.** FOTW will continue with the project in the spring working on *The International* and *The Dragon's Tail*. This work is being paid for by a water quality grant applied for by the FOTW and endorsed by the committee.
- **The committee closed and later reopened the rebuilt section of the Eagle's Trail on the Economou Road Extension to prevent erosion.** The section of trail that was rebuilt with a water quality grant in 2012 is much improved and working well.
- **The committee contributed to discussion about a Firearms Ordinance** to allow police to deal with potential misuse of firearms in the Town Forest parking lots.
- The committee has discussed **changing some or all of the trail names in the HTF**. No action has been taken. A vote of the committee will be required to change the trail names.
- **Work on action items from the Management Plan**
  - **Boundaries-** Committee members have worked on identifying and painting the Town Forest boundaries. This work will continue in 2014.
  - **Slow signs-** Signs have been placed near each parking area reminding drivers to slow down in the nearby neighborhoods.
  - **Kiosks-** Kiosks will soon be finished being installed at three HTF and one LHTF parking lots.
  - **Updated map-** The trail map of the HTF was updated and will continue to be updated with each new version posted on the kiosks and on the Town website. Alex Weinhagen created the new map with data shared by Brooke Scatchard.
  - **MOU with user groups-** The committee began drafting a memorandum of understanding to be presented to the FOTW to formalize its relationship with the Town.
  - **The Hollis Parcel-** The committee voted unanimously to ask the FOTW not to maintain its trails on the Hollis Parcel so that area can be set aside for dispersed use and natural resource protection. We will continue to explore how to best protect the resources.