



Town Forest Committee

Town of Hinesburg

10632 Route 116 Hinesburg VT 05461

802.482.2281 | www.hinesburg.org

Meeting Minutes - July 12, 2018

APPROVED

Present: Pat Mainer (Chair), Chris Haviland, Corinne Johansson, Jon Trefry, Aaron Townsend

Absent: Darren Johnson, Stewart Pierson, Brent Francis

Visitors: Dick Francis, Lenore Budd

Call to Order: Pat called the meeting of the Town Forest Committee to order at 7:20 p.m. on July 12, 2018

Additions/Deletions to Agenda: None

Public Comment: None

Discussion/Approval of June 14, 2018 Minutes: Corinne moved to approve the amended minutes of June 14, 2018. John seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer was not present.

Updates:

- **Recreation study grant update:** Administration of the grant responded to the committee's dissatisfaction with the requirements and have responded. Survey will be undertaken to get a better understanding of the community's interest in the level of amenities vs. wildness.
- **Signs:** Signs have been mounted in the three parking lots. "Healthy Choice's, Arrive Alive."
- **LHTF 2018 floodplain tree planting:** No recent communication. Probably September/October. Ongoing.
- **Carpenter-Carse Library program:** Library program with Ethan will be August 21st in the evening. Two walks in the town forest will take place in September the 22nd and 29th.
- **LHTF Management Plan renewal:** Management plan will need to be updated in the near term. Compliance to grant moneys and complying with stakeholder agreements need to be addressed. Form a sub-committee to examine. John, Stewart and Pat. On-going.

- **Steve Russell Memorial:** Some new suggestions. A plaque with room to honor future long serving committee members. Planting of a tree dedicated to Steve. Ongoing.
- **Boundary Marking:** Ongoing

New Business:

- Inventory and Assessment approved by the Select Board
Items to be addressed:
 - Adjusting zones - page 6: Will need to be discussed further and approved then sent to select board for approval of amendment to the HTF Management Plan
 - Signs - page 7: Wait until after the grant study and more discussion
 - Water bars on the Hollis Parcel - page 10: Brent commented (through his father) that water bars from Economou Extension adjacent to HHW road and parking should not be directed to run toward HHW.
 - Viewpoints (trimming) - page 7: Ongoing
 - Southwest boundary - page 10: Ongoing. Committee will investigate taking bids for surveying and requesting Carse family to share cost.
 - Harvesting: Ethan Tapper suggested appropriation of up \$300 for herbicide to be applied prior to harvesting. John moved, Corinne seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- **VAST Request:** VAST has requested use of the old Economou Road passing through the HTF as well as a short connector from an adjacent trail outside HTF property to the old Economou Road at the west end as part of their network. Discussion included concerns about noise, speed and volume of traffic, parking of trucks and trailers at the HTF trailhead parking lots and effects on wildlife. Inclusion/non-exclusion of snow travelers as a user group was also a concern. The VAST proposal also includes widening the old Economou Road to 12 Feet to allow grooming vehicles. Committee members expressed greatest concern about this with regards to opening the forest canopy to more sunlight, which might allow more invasive species growth. Another concern was erosion. Pat to communicate these issues and ask for clarification about the need to widen the road/trail.

Next Meeting: September 13, 2018, 7:00, Town Hall Lowest level conference room

Adjournment: John moved to adjourn the meeting. Chris seconded. The motion was unanimously approved. Pat adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Chris Haviland