



Town Forest Committee

Town of Hinesburg

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Approved

Meeting Minutes June 9, 2022

Present: Pat Mainer (Chair), Chris Haviland, Jon Trefry, Brent Francis, Aaron Miller, Stevie Spencer, Kelsey Barklund joined at 7:53pm

Absent: Thomas Marrinson

Visitors: Ethan Tapper

Call to order: Pat Mainer called the meeting of the Town Forest Committee to order at 7:01 pm on June 9, 2022

Additions/Deletions to Agenda:

Public Comment:

Discussion/Approval of May 12, 2022 minutes: Jon moved to approve the minutes. Stevie seconded. The motion was approved unanimously

Discussion/Approval of June 2, 2022 Management Plan Public Comment minutes: Jon moved to approve the minutes. Stevie seconded. The motion was approved unanimously with the addition of the emailed comment that trail name signs need to be improved and added as an objective in the management plan.

Treasurer's Report: No update to the May report

Discussion and Action

- **LHTF invasives treatment:** Ethan walked the HTF to look at the wall lettuce and does not feel that it needs to be addressed at this time. Wall lettuce will not grow and spread under forest canopy which is redeveloping after the logging. LHTF has honeysuckle along the ditch lines running west from Gilman Rd. There is also buckthorn. Town Mgr. Todd Odit thought that a contract amendment to extend the contract with Trout Lilly Forestry Services (Will Dunkley) would be ok. Ethan thought that this year we should treat the ditch lines in the fall and the area of dense forest across the ditch. Ethan thought that \$10k would not be unreasonable for this year with smaller ongoing annual amounts. Jon asked Ethan about contacting bordering property owners to act on treatment on their properties. Private properties could qualify for federal funding to help with costs.
- **Habitat Stamp work proposal to improve habitat for the golden winged warbler:** Ethan reported that he applied for funding from this program last year. The proposal was funded \$7000 to do some work to

create better habitat for the warbler. Ethan did not think that the funding expires this year. Committee might need to pay for the work upfront and be refunded.

- **Craig Chevrier's concerns about dogs on his land:** Mr. Chevrier was invited but did not attend the meeting. Committee was concerned about setting precedent by putting up signs for one landowner. Decision was made to table the subject until Mr. Chevrier can attend to answer questions.
- **Site visit Follow-up - South end of CPR:** Chris Hill built the trail connecting Lincoln Hill Rd. to CPR further from his house than the original trail as approved by the committee after the site visit.
- **Site visit Follow-up - Signs near Ballin's:** Kelsey will check out the sign on the Hollis Parcel and order the sign for Ballin's.
- **Management Plan Public Hearing follow-up:** Pat reviewed the changes that have been made to the MP to this point. Committee members commented. The subject of motorized vehicle access was discussed because it was brought up at the public comment meeting. Popular opinion was to make no change in the language. Jon moved to approve the updates to the management plan June 8th draft for presentation at the July meeting for public comment. Aaron seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Updates:

- **E-bike study update:** Moving along and Pat will forward the email.
- **RTP Grant application:** Jon sent the application. Expects response this month.
- **Stand 14:** Ethan reports that the Browns are done processing firewood. Later this month they are coming back with an excavator to do closeout work.
- **LHTF TNC project:** no update
- **LHTF US & VT Fish and Wildlife project:** no update
- **Ash treatment by Ethan:** Ethan is going to learn how to use the equipment from VLT next week and then go into HTF to find trees to treat.
- **HTF Boundary painting:** Stevie got maps from Bob Heiser and attempted to find some pins. Will organize with Ethan and Kelsey to take a walk.
- **HTF Deer exclosures:** Chris and Aaron to go check them out.
- **Beavers:** Pat reports that the dammed area has significantly dried out. FOTW held a work day to begin work on trail re-route and bridging.
- **Inventory and Assessment for the Carse Addition:** Ethan is working on it.
- **Stealth trail assessment:** Committee discussed the inclusion of Stealth Trail on the official trail map. Jon moved to include it. Chris seconded. The motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Closures for hunting:** postponed. Brent will look into the exact dates in 2022 that would line up with closures in previous years.
- **Trail names:** Chris reviewed his reasons behind recommending that the three separate sections of, what is currently named "Mainer's Meander," be given three distinct names. The three sections do not meet end to end. There is a safety aspect involved, should an individual require emergency assistance, rescuers would have to determine which section of Mainer's Meander that they were on. This would prove difficult at best. Committee will take up this action item at a future meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Next Meeting: July 14, 2022, 9:06 pm, at Hinesburg Town Hall and or Zoom.

Adjournment: Jon made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Chris. Motion was approved unanimously at 9:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Chris Haviland