



## Town Forest Committee

Town of Hinesburg

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**Draft**

### Meeting Minutes March 9, 2023

**Present:** Pat Mainer (Chair), Chris Haviland, Kelsey Barklund, Aaron Miller, Tom Broido, Stevie Spencer (via zoom)

**Absent:** Jon Trefry, Thomas Marrinson, Brent Francis

**Visitors:** Ella Weigel, Adam Morse

**Call to order:** Pat Mainer called the meeting of the Town Forest Committee to order at 7:06 pm on March, 9 2023

**Public Comment:** none

**Discussion/Approval of February 9, 2023 minutes:** Jon moved to approve the minutes. Kelsey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** no change from previous

#### **Additions:**

- **Committee Member in person meeting attendance:** Discussion regarding necessity to continue holdin zoom meetings. Those present did not see the need to continue remote meetings. Kelsey moved to hold all HTF meetings in person at town hall. Zoom meeting only if deemed necessary by circumstances. Stevie seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **UPDATES:**

- **Investing:** No update
- **Stand 14 Harvest:** Continuing
- **HTF signage:** No update
- **LHTF Conservation Easement Encroachment:** Todd O. spoke with Gregg Lyman who said that he felt the beaver ponds were threatening his property. No other details on what the perceived threat was. The subject was scheduled but removed from the Feb. select board agenda. Committee agreed that the select board should be informed. Aaron feels that the enforcement is in alignment with VLT trust agreements. Pat feels that and infraction of the conservation should have consequence, per

conservation easement the town has right to enforce. Pat is going to question Todd about this and will go to a select board meeting to inform the board if necessary.

- **Website improvement:** Kelsey sent out a list of proposed changes to the website. Discussion regarding Jon Trefry's comments. Chris recommended that the website posted, select board approved management plans and other doc's should be the copy that was actually signed by the select board chair. Tom B. recommended refining the language on hunting seasons. Tom B. moved to approve the changes as discussed. Aaron seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- **LHTF floodplain restoration:** No update
- **Interpretive sign for Habitat Stamp work:** no update
- **RTP grant – for wheel chair access to LHTF:** no update
- **Bat house painting and caulking:** no update
- **Reactions to class 1 e-bike study:** Committee members commented on the results of the study that Pat sent to members.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **FOTW 2023 Work Plan:** Adam Morse described plans for trails, especially Sheep Thrills, Dragon Tail and Homestead as well as annual leaf blowing and other regular maintenance. Kelsey made a motion to approve the FOTW HTF trail plan as amended and planned group ride. Aaron seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.
- **Northern Forest grant for Eagle's Trail:** Pat forwarded info regarding grant opportunity which would fit really well with the culvert replacement and drainage work to Eagles trail. This could also include some general restoration work on some of the other trails specified in our trail plan for this year or into the future. Aaron moved to endorse FOTW application for the Northern Forest grant. Tom B. seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**Next Meeting:** April 13, 2023, 7:00 pm, at Hinesburg Town Hall.

**Adjournment:** Tom M. made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Stevie. Motion was approved unanimously at 8:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Chris Haviland