



Town Forest Committee

Town of Hinesburg

10632 Route 116 Hinesburg VT 05461

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Approved

Meeting Minutes March 14, 2024

Present: Pat Mainer (Chair), Chris Haviland, Joe Pasteris, Stevie Spencer, Brent Francis

Absent: Aaron Miller, Thomas Marrinson, Tom Broido

Visitors: Alison Lesure, Planning Commission. Dave Berg, nursery cuttings. Ralph Budd, observing

Call to order: Pat Mainer called the meeting of the Town Forest Committee to order at 7:05 pm on March 14, 2024

Public Comment:

Discussion/Approval of February 8, 2024 draft minutes: Joe moved to approve the minutes as edited. Stevie seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: No report available

ADDITIONS:

NEW BUSINESS:

- **FOTW women's ride from HHE:** Committee discussed previous concerns of neighbors regarding parking during group rides. FOTW is very aware of this and will be careful to inform participants about blocking neighborhood access. Committee discussed posting parking direction signs. Chris moved to approve the women's ride for the one event this summer. Joe seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.
- **VEC HTF ROW:** Pat spoke to VT Elec Coop about invasives in the right of way off Lincoln Hill Rd. VEC representative had no problem with the committee having that work done but they should be in contact with VEC for safety talk.
- **Alison Lesure, Town Planning Commission:** Alison visited the meeting to elicit feedback on the Town Plan as it relates to the town forests.
- **Dave Berg, nursery cuttings:** Dave's project to take dormant cuttings and seed from the Laplatte town forest for a non-profit project which is externally funded and not for profit. Cuttings and seeds would be donated to habitat restoration projects in the Champlain Valley. Specifically willow cuttings, red stem dogwood, balsam poplar and a few others. Dave is trying

to get more diversity. Chris moved to allow the project to move forward as Dave described. Stevie seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Chittenden County Forester position:** Ethan Tapper will be leaving the position in May. The position is not likely to be filled in the immediate future.
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UPDATES:

- **HTF Trail Signs:** Joe brought possible final revision for discussion. Stevie will check with Cliffords to see if they would be willing to kiln dry the cedar. Stevie will also ask whether Cliffords can obtain the same cedar as Joe has priced from Koenig.
- **Carse FMP addendum to 2022 HTF Management Plan:** still waiting on Ethan for the final edit. Then we can schedule a public hearing at our next meeting.
- **Future HTF Management Recommendations: Ethan Tapper, County Forester:** no update
- **VEM buyout and transfer to the Town of property adjoining the LHTF:** no update
- **Bat houses, etc. at LHTF:** Ready to be reinstalled after having been cleaned and painted.
- **Projects for 2024:** Pat sent the list around on Feb 25th.

Next Meeting: April 11, 2024, 7:00 pm, at Hinesburg Town Hall.

Adjournment: Chris made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Brent. Motion was approved unanimously at 8:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Chris Haviland