



## Town Forest Committee

Town of Hinesburg

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**Draft**

Meeting Minutes May 12, 2022

**Present:** Pat Mainer (Chair), Chris Haviland, Jon Trefry, Brent Francis, Aaron Miller, Kelsey Barklund, Stevie Spencer

**Absent:** Thomas Marrinson

**Visitors:** Adam Morse

**Call to order:** Jon Trefry called the meeting of the Town Forest Committee to order at 7:13 pm on May 12, 2022

**Additions/Deletions to Agenda:**

**Public Comment:**

**Discussion/Approval of April 14, 2022 minutes:** Aaron moved to approve the minutes. Pat seconded. The motion was approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer reports a starting balance of \$24,088.33 plus logging revenue of \$47,658.58, with deductions for attorney's fees of \$21,444.02 from Carse acquisition, Brown's Logging and Maple Co. and Tree Farm dues totaling \$2,430.00 for an ending balance of \$47,872.89. VLT Land Trust Stewardship Fund totaling \$113,341.00 Chris moved to accept the treasurer's report. Stevie seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion and Action**

- Site visit and follow-up to Hill's, Ballin's and beaver dam on Backdoor: Committee members visited the sites on 5/9/22.
- Hill's property: Discussion involved moving the trail coming from Lincoln Hill Rd. uphill adjacent to Hill's garage slightly east to connect with CPR Trail and removing the trail from the map that connects over to Backdoor temporarily until it can be relocated further uphill away from the Hill's house and the boundary line.
- Beaver dam flooding: Brent brought up concerns about starting an ongoing battle with beaver habitat and suggested a connection to CPR that would eliminate the Backdoor access to the forest from Lincoln Hill Rd. Adam Morse joined the meeting and said that a re-route would be a challenge for FOTW to accomplish and gave an estimate of \$4,993.00 to build two bridges to cross the beaver flooding that

would get the trail reconnected in the short term. Discussion also around moving the Backdoor access more west to an old logging road. Pat moved to appropriate up to \$5000 from the stewardship fund for FOTW to build two bridges and modify the trail to cross the beaver flooding. Chris seconded the motion. The motion was approved with one opposed.

- **Ballin property:** Ballin's are concerned about people following the logging road off the HTF property which ends up very close to their house. Committee discussed signs similar to the ones mounted on the border with the Francis property in 2020 with the Hollis Parcel. Pat moved to appropriate \$350 from the stewardship fund for two signs to read "Private Property Ahead. No Public Access. Town of Hinesburg" Kelsey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Updates:

- **Backdoor Trail Improvements:** Adam Morse from FOTW presented the plans. Coordinating with volunteers to begin the project as soon as next week since the weather has been so dry.
- **Management Plan :** Approval of the revised plan. Brent pointed out that the language allowing unleashed dogs ran counter to town ordinance. Wording allowing dogs off leash was removed. Kristen Sharpless was added to the list of authors and adopters from 2012. Pat moved to accept the plan as amended at this meeting. Aaron seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Pat moved to expend \$250 from the stewardship fund for the Media Factory to provide video/audio stream the public meeting. Kelsey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Closures for Hunting:** postponed.
- **E-bike Study Update:** Adam Morse from FOTW. UVM Center for Rural Studies will partner in the study of trail impact from e-bikes. Focus will also be on social impact, standard bikes vs e-bikes. Possible changes in trail maintenance requirements. FOTW may try to orchestrate e-bike demo days. Surveys will be taken on site during July/Aug. Discussion of posting on Hinesburg.org and Front Porch Forum.
- **RTP Grant application:** Deadline May 26<sup>th</sup>. Jon working on it.
- **Conservation and Addition project celebration:** Tom, Stevie, Aaron, Kelsey. In progress.
- **Stand 14 harvest:** Browns continuing toward close out.
- **LHTF TNC project – UVM NR206 project:** Zoom presentation was made. Pat recorded and will send it out to the committee.
- **LHTF US & VT Fish and Wildlife project:** Pete Emerson from VT Fish and Wildlife is taking it over.
- **Ash treatment:** Ethan will be applying
- **HTF Boundary painting:** no update.
- **HTF Deer exclosures:** Aaron attempted to find the 3<sup>rd</sup> exclosure.
- **Invasive treatment at LHTF & HTF:** Scheduled to meet with Ethan at 8:30am on 5/26
- **Inventory and Assessment for the Carse Addition:** Ethan Tapper is working on a proposal. Almost done.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

#### OTHER BUSINESS:

**Next Meeting:** June 9, 2022, 9:52 pm, at Hinesburg Town Hall and or Zoom.

**Adjournment:** Chris made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Aaron. Motion was approved unanimously at 9:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Chris Haviland

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