



Town Forest Committee

Town of Hinesburg

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Draft

Meeting Minutes June 2, 2022

Revised HTF Management Plan Public Hearing

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

Absent: Thomas Marrinson, Brent Francis

Visitors: Bob Heiser, Peter Carse

Call to order: Pat Mainer called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm on June 2, 2022

Changes to the Management Plan: Revision of the current management plan was primarily instigated by the purchase of the Carse Property Addition in Feb. 2022 which increased the size of the forest by 291 acres. Jon Trefry listed the draft changes to the proposed management plan as outlined in Section 1.3

List of significant changes:

- Revised the history section to include indigenous peoples use of the area now occupied by the HTF
- Added document history section
- Rewrote language about motorized vehicle use
- Strengthened language about dogs
- Added enforcement language
- Added conservation easement restrictions
- Added 291 acres and merged the interim management plan for that parcel into this plan
- Created a separate invasive species section
- Created a longer executive summary to share work of last 10 years
- Prohibited campfires w/o permission from TF Committee
- Adds a fourth level of management –a reserve zone where no human use other than dispersed recreation is allowed.
- Updated Maps

Public Comment by those attending in person or via Zoom:

Ray Mainer: Objected to the requirement that dogs be leashed. Feels the town ordinances are adequate. Commented on previous damage to the existing trails by horses and commends the language regarding horses.

Maggie Gordon: Objected to motorized vehicle damage she has observed in the HTF and the language allowing motorized vehicles.

Barbara Forauer: Supports keeping dogs leashed at all times in the town forest. Has encountered unleashed dogs causing issues. Also against motorized vehicles.

Comments Received Via Email to the Committee

Peter Modley: In the executive summary page 6 paragraph 1 second sentence ends “glacial tilt covering the hills.” Peter believes it should be “glacial till.”

In the third paragraph, second sentence it is stated “By the mid 1700’s, the then governor of the region, Benning Wentworth, began chartering towns through grants of land in the region west of the Connecticut River.” Peter believes it would be more accurate to say, “By the mid-1700’s Benning Wentworth, the governor of New Hampshire (which then claimed the territory which is now Vermont), began chartering towns through grants of land in the region west of the Connecticut River.” Peter stated that, “I would hesitate to call him “governor of the region” because New York had a, perhaps, more valid claim.”

Peter comments on the lack of reference to a previous management recommendation. In the “Draft Forest Management Plan for the 10 years beginning October 2017,” supplement titled Trails and Recreation (page 7) (authored by Harris Roen, Long Meadow Resource Management) the management recommendations include “Designate and map a limited number of viewpoints in the HTF. Prune designated overlooks, with the goal of maintaining vistas while retaining a naturalized feel.” Peter believes this management recommendation should be included in the current Draft Management Plan because such vistas would greatly enhance the aesthetic experience of hiking the trails, and would give educators opportunities to point out to their students features on the landscape illustrative of the region’s geology, settlement, forests, agriculture, etc.

Bethanne Cellars: Echoed Peter Modley’s comment regarding inclusion of the language regarding “mapping viewpoints.”

Adjournment: Pat adjourned the meeting at 7:32 pm after no further comments were offered.

Respectfully submitted by Chris Haviland