

**TOWN OF NORTHFIELD, VERMONT
TOWN FOREST STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MAY 17, 2022**

I. ROLL CALL

Colin, Nelson, Mat, Caroline

Colin called the meeting to order at 6:07

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (SCHEDULED): None.

III. DISCUSSION

a. Town Forest Reopening Update, Coordination with Norwich University (Colin). It would be good to implement a process to codifying how we open back up again. We had a great dry season that helped us be able to open back up again sooner and it's been nice to see people out enjoying the trails.

b. Fires in the Town Forest (Colin). Should we consider eliminating the fire pit at the top of Cheney. Nelson will talk with the Conservation Commission and Brian Elwell about whether we should get rid of that. Mat asked if we could place signs at the gate and at the top of the Cheney reinforcing that there are no fires. This could be replaced with a sign in the future combined with other general policies e.g. dogs. Mat will talk with Nigel about the potential for the Conservation Commission purchasing signs indicating that fires aren't allowed in the town forest.

c. Trail Maintenance Ideas/Schedule (Nelson/Matt). Nelson and Mat have performed an evaluation on all of the TF trails with the exception of two sections of single track. Things are in pretty good shape, with work mostly only needed on water bars. Things are working pretty well now for reporting of issues and needed maintenance. Having one or two organized days (maybe one fall and one summer) would probably be enough to handle most of our routine maintenance. Maybe we can organize a trail work day for June 4th, which is National Trails Day.

There is a tree across the trail at the Hawk Watch/Summit that doesn't seem to be causing any troubles with clearance. It appears to be stable, but we'll keep an eye on it and remove it if it becomes problematic or looks less stable.

Thanks to Nelson and Mat for all the work they've done clearing blowdowns over the past few weeks.

d. Working Group Membership

No discussion

e. VOREC Grant Update

Brad was not present to update the group on the VOREC grant. The Town Forest Access Study has been completed and will be presented to the Selectboard soon. TFSC members should expect to see a copy distributed by the chair of the NCC or TFSC soon.

f. Dog Working Group Update (Colin)

Mat would like to move on to acting on the dog policy. The TFSC members will send ideas for what "under control" means to the Dogs working group so that they can draft a definition that is in line with the municipal policy of dogs being "on leash or under control" but puts some parameters on expected dog owner behavior. Caroline will join the dogs working group.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

When we put the flashing on the roof of the Hawk Watch it was snowing and it didn't get attached as weak as it could have been. We need to go back up and address that. We'd like to put a new floor in, so we should add that to the agenda for our next meeting.

It would also be good to look at the potential reroute for the Ridgeline. Colin and Collin are looking

Nelson moved approval of the meeting of April 19. Second by Mat. 4-0-0 motion carries.

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (UNSCHEDULED)

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Nelson, Second by Mat. 4-0-0, the meeting adjourned at 6:52