

Minutes of 10/18/22 Town Forest Stewardship Committee meeting.

I. ROLL CALL

Mat Katz, Russ Barrett, Jeremy Whalen, and Nelson Hoffman in attendance. Colin Bright and Caroline Zeilenga absent. Meeting called to order at 6:06 pm by Jeremy Whalen

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: September 20, 2022

Approval of minutes motioned by Russ, second by Mat. Motion carries 4-0-0.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (SCHEDULED):

None.

IV. UPDATES & DISCUSSION

- a. **NCC:** Jeremy stated he would add a monthly update to the committee from the NCC. NCC/TFSC joint members Jeremy and Russ share information from the TFSC meeting with NCC; however, there is little communication back to the committee from NCC. Jeremy will update the committee on any relevant NCC topics. There was no information to share from last month's meeting, as it was canceled.
- b. **VOREC/ Hawk Watch:** Russ conducted a site visit with four potential bidders on 9/22/22 for the Hawk Watch clearing work. They walked in from Kingston Rd., which will be the access for the job. Two bids were received back to the town for the project, and references are currently being checked for the low bidder. Mat asked if we should hold off on trail maintenance until the work is complete. Russ said the work to clear in front of Hawk Watch would be one trip in and one out and completed by March 2023, with herbicide treatments completed by October 2023.

Russ updated the committee on the status of the way finder sign project. The VOREC committee is putting together a working group for the project to work with Dubois and King. Russ suggested to the VOREC committee that there be representation from the TFCS beyond himself on the working group. Nelson is interested in filling that seat if the VOREC committee invites another TFSC member.

Nelson asked Russ what the status of the parking project was. Russ said that the parking focus was going to be at Shaw Center and referred Nelson to the VOREC meeting meetings for a full update. Link provided: [Select Board Subcommittees | Mysite \(northfield-vt.gov\)](#).

- c. **Cheney Field Mowing:** Colin was going to provide a map and coordinate from the September meeting. No further update.
- d. **Fall Trail Work Schedule:** From our earlier discussion about Hawk Watch work, Mat asked if we should complete the water bar work now or wait until after work is complete. Jeremy asked if there are areas of high priority, and Mat thought we should focus on water bars below the rock garden area. Nelson thinks most water bars need minor maintenance, not a completed rebuild. All members in attendance are available the weekend on October 29th and 30th for a workday. Mat and Nelson will inspect the area to gauge what needs to be completed. Nelson will get volunteer forms from the town, and Mat will reach out to others who have helped in the past.

Nelson asked if we are responsible for maintaining winter trails for winter sports users. Mainly blowdowns. Jeremy stated that, as with mountain biking, it's always at your own risk. Further agenda/discussion item for November's meeting.

- e. **Membership:** Jeremy was going to discuss membership with NCC last month; however, the meeting was canceled, and he will discuss it at this month's meeting.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

Jeremy and Colin posted the signs in the Town Forest. Russ noted that one member of the Berlin Conservation Committee joined them on the ridge hike from Payne to Berlin pond recently. Jeremy stated that as winter approaches and days are getting shorter, meetings will be virtual as we advance through winter, and plans to resume in person in the spring.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (UNSCHEDULED) None

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Russ. Second by Nelson. Motion carries 4-0-0. The meeting adjourned at 6:46.