

TFSC 10/19

Called to order by Brad at 6:04

Roll Call:

TFSC: Brad Johhson, Russ Barret, Nelson Hoffman, Lydia Petty, Colin Bright, Mat Katz,

Public: Greg Hewitt, Kim Caldwell

Public Participation (Scheduled):

None.

Approval of Minutes:

Russ motioned, Lydia second. 6-0-0.

Questions have been asked about where minutes are for the site visits for the Access Study. Minutes are not available through the TFSC because it's not being run by the TFSC. Information on the Access Study is available on the Town website, but since the walks were not public meetings or hearings, minutes may not be. D&K might have them, but since the study is funded through CVRPC we're not sure who'd have access. Any actions or decisions resulting from the study would come about at publicly warned Select Board meetings.

Questions have also been asked about the timeliness of minutes publishing and accuracy of the content. Colin apologized for the most recent set being published late. The group doesn't feel that there are problems with accuracy.

Updates and News from Committee Members

Hawkwatch: Donors have provided funding and a landowner on Turkey Hill is allowing us to cross his land to move materials which eliminates the issues with the rock garden. Collin O'Neill will allow materials to be dropped at the Shaw Center. We may also be able to use Forest Road access, but Turkey Hill may be preferable. We'll pre-cut the metal panels so that we don't have to deal with that on site. Collin O'Neill has appropriate tools for cutting that material. Materials will be ordered 10/20 and delivered 10/21.

The hardest part of the process is likely to be getting rid of the debris from the collapsed roof. The ATV trailer would be handy for this. Mat has removed most of the nails and bagged up the old shingles and rotten plywood.

Sections of the floor also need replacement. We'll scope the requirements for that while we're working on the roof.

All volunteers will need to complete a waiver, which Nelson has forwarded to the subcommittee members. We will print more to be completed by volunteers.

Cheney Meadow will be mowed 10/20.

We have positive responses from two additional land owners for mapping trails that extend onto their land.

There is another member of the community interested in joining the committee if a seat becomes available.

Working Groups and Discussion

A. VOREC Grant Application

The town's letter of interest was accepted and we have been invited to apply. The state has not yet sent out the applications. The NRRR is meeting 10/20 and will be discussing what they can do to assist. The group working on the access study is attempting to get more information to help inform that portion of the grant application.

The TFSC is not the owner of the VOREC application, though there are NCC/TFSC members working on the process, and the TFSC has endorsed the application. Nelson has concerns about public perceptions, and wants to make it clear that the TFSC is not writing the grant or participating in the process.

How does the TFSC want to proceed with involvement in the VOREC process. Wouldn't it make sense as stewards of the Town Forest to be actively involved in crafting any potential grant application. The letter of intent includes a number of items that are specifically called out in the Stewardship Plan.

Lydia moved that a member of the TFSC participate in writing the VOREC grant application to support the aims of the Town Forest Stewardship Plan, and that the TFSC review it before submitting. Second by Nelson. Motion passes 6-0-0.

Brad and Mat will act as the group's representatives to the VOREC grant writing process.

Russ moves to ask the NCC to write a letter of support for the VOREC application since a number of the ideas in the letter of intent support directives in the Town Forest Stewardship Plan. Second by Lydia. Motion passes 5-1-0

B. Norwich University/Town Relations

The subcommittee continues to work towards a communication plan that works for coordinating with NU. Add to agenda for next meeting.

C. Dogs in the Town Forest

Nelson summarized our previous conversation about concerns that there aren't any published guidelines for dogs in the town forest, and specifically around the importance of dogs being on-leash for wildlife, human, and other leashed canine visitors.

There is currently no signage, but there is a town leash law.

Colin moves that we request the NCC print and mount signs at all Town Forest entrances requiring all dogs to be leashed while in the town forest in accordance with town ordinance ???.
Second by Brad. 6-0-0

D. LDA Boundaries in the Town Forest

The committee previously voted against defining hard line boundaries to the LDA pending a discussion with the consultant that prepared the TFSP. The consultant will not speak with us uncompensated. Add to agenda for next meeting.

Public Participation

Greg is surprised that the TFSC isn't the leaders of the VOREC grant. There needs to be more clarity around who's doing what in the town.

Kim's glad the conversation tonight led to more formal support of the VOREC grant.

Kim's wondering what the formal process is for reporting trail needs or concerns. Nelson stated that it's currently under development; as of now we're just doing it when we hear about it. Lydia asked if the TFSC can get an official town email address so that we can have a direct line of communication for folks.

Adjournment

Russ moved adjournment, Lydia second. Motion passed 6-0-0.