

TOWN OF NORTHFIELD, VERMONT
TOWN FOREST STEWARDSHIP SUBCOMMITTEE
Minutes of January 19, 2021

Meeting called to order at 6pm

All present except for Brad and Mike

Motion to approve minutes by Nelson, seconded by Lydia 5-0-0

Member updates:

Lydia: There was a lot of conversation at the most recent Select Board meeting in re: Dustin's pasture. It's not really under the purview of the TFSC, but maybe there should be a conversation about the intention of the land and how the Stewardship Plan might apply. Conversation at the Select Board meeting centered around renewal of lease of sugaring operation

Russ: Russ wouldn't be surprised if it did come under the purview of the TFSC soon. The sugar maker may not be adhering to the terms of the lease (per site visit with Rose and Russ) and was tapping outside of the specified area.

Nelson: Why wasn't Dustin's Pasture included in the TFMP from the beginning?

Russ: They have separate management plans/current use. The NCC wanted to tackle the Paine Mountain parcel first then add in Dustin's pasture

The Shaw center is closed again. This was communicated in the last press release detailing campus closures and posted to Facebook.

Russ: planning to discuss amendments to TFSP at next CC meeting.

Working group reports:

Mapping: nothing to report. Russ will speak with the Conservation Commission next week at their regular meeting to figure out how many hours to request for the mapping from Arrowwood or CVRPC. Nelson volunteered to become point person for communication between manager/CVRPC.

Russ sent around a comprehensive list of property owners with land crossed by trails.

Lydia wants to reconvene the subcommittee to talk about planning. Since planning is going to take a long time we should discuss how we're going to go about approving/denying trails. Use is going to begin again soon and we need to know what we're doing by then so that we can talk with landowners.

NU: nothing to report. Colin will reach out to Collin O'Neil at the Shaw about getting a call planned with ROTC reps to talk about winter and spring training.

Access: The subcommittee hasn't met with Rose yet but is planning to this month.

Education: Mike is still excited to join but has a scheduling conflict Tuesday nights. The group discussed a scheduling change, and is waiting to hear times that might work for Mike and will select a new meeting time that works for all.

Term Limits: Conservation Commission members have set term limits per their Commission seats. Non CC members will be assigned terms. Terms typically roll on from one term to the next unless someone wants to roll off. (see email for specifics to be recorded here)

Other business:

Nelson:

Emails started to be exchanged two weeks ago inside of the mapping work group. He thought we had the open meeting issues worked out, but there was some confusion. Nelson thought some of the point of the working groups was to allow for us to be able to communicate more efficiently to get things done.

Lydia: there was a quorum on the email chain, therefore it needs to be warned. Email threads need to be limited to 3 members or else we have a quorum. It's frustrating, but transparency is crucial.

Nelson: Collin O'Neill (Shaw Center) asked Brad for a copy of Dave's plan, which Brad forwarded to Nelson, who replied to Brad including some conversation about the master plan, but it was suggested that it needed to wait until the next meeting.

John: can we get the agendas sent as meeting invites instead of as emails?

Russ: not really his area of expertise. John to email Russ what he wants and he'll send it to Ken McCann

Lydia: The Northfield Ridge and River Routes plan is about to be released to the community at an event on the 29th with a Zoom presentation and Q&A. The presentation will be recorded and available after the fact, but would be nice to have everybody there. John asked about putting it on the CC Facebook page, whether it was appropriate. Probably a question for Debbie. Lydia responded that it will be advertised through all of the usual channels, so it should be easy for folks to find it.

Meeting next month is probably the 16th. CC meeting next week is the 27th. Nelson may not be able to attend due to a conflict.

Adjournment motion by Lydia, second by John, 5-0-0