

**Town of Northfield, Vermont
Town Forest Stewardship Committee
Minutes of May 20, 2025**

- I. ROLL CALL: Jeremy Whalen, Russ Barrett, Andrew Padilla, Ginny Kunkel**
- II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (SCHEDULED): None**
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: March 18th, 2025: Russ motion to approve, seconded by Ginny, Approved 4-0**
- IV. Agenda updates or additions**
- V. UPDATES AND DISCUSSION**
 - a. Shaw Center update: Classes ended in May. Andrew is still working to finalize plans for disc golf. Contractor to replace skills track near Shaw Center. Andrew is now overseeing the fitness center, which will be open to the public this fall.**
 - b. Lybrand trail reroute hike with NU staff: Ryan Mcall and Jay Hollingsworth contacted Andrew about looking for a reroute of the Lybrand trail that was washed out from flooding a few years ago. They want to explore crossing the brook near the end of the trail work that was completed a few years ago, then following the brook up towards the lower pond. Potentially crossing back over where the stream goes sub-surface. This would be on Norwich land and use part of what was the old postal trail. They were looking to schedule a site walk the week of May 23rd, with an invitation to TFSC members who were interested in attending.**

Norwich also had received funds from FEMA to conduct a feasibility engineering study to fix the trail. Original funds approved won't cover the newest estimated engineering fees. Norwich in discussion with FEMA.

- c. **VYCC update: Crews finished clearing blowdowns on Garvey Hill. Feedback received was that it looks good, and people are happy to be using those trails again. There are still some water issues in spots. VYCC will be back later this summer to work on trails on Paine Mountain and maybe can address a few water bars on Garvey.**
 - d. **Paine Mountain trail reroute proposal: As part of the above VYCC work, TFSC would like to move a portion of PMT away from a wet overgrown area near Butternut Junction. The committee will prepare a trail reroute application and discuss at the next meeting.**
 - e. **Town Forest zoning: Need to check in with PC on status of Conservation overlay.**
 - f. **Discuss recent comments in meeting notes from the Select Board referring to Cheney Field Parking post construction: A few Prospect/Hill street neighborhood community members have reached out asking about recent comments made by Select Board members concerning parking in Cheney Field post water tank construction. The TFSC has not received any requests from the Select Board to provide input on parking in Cheney and had discussed the topic a few months ago when a public participant brought it up. The TFSC consensus was not in favor of parking in the field due to concerns of a negative ecological impact, aesthetics on the field, and recommendations from the Ridge and Rivers study.**
- VI. Public Participation (Unscheduled): None**
- VII. Other Business: Andrew and Jeremy went up and put traction material down on the bridges on PMT. As they aged, they started to get slippery.**
- VIII. Adjournment: 7:05 pm**