

**TOWN OF NORTHFIELD, VERMONT
TOWN FOREST STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE
Minutes of September 15, 2026**

I. ROLL CALL

Bill Dell'Isola, Ray Crowder, Ginny Kunkel, Andrew Padilla, Russ Barrett, Dylan Alsbach, Jeremy Whalen

Janan Hamm, Tim Swartz, Bill Clements

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (SCHEDULED):

a. Accessibility, Walkability, & Pedestrian Safety Task Force: Cheney Field Pilot Day Update

Janan Hamm gave an update on the progress of the process. Next steps include setting dates with interested stakeholders. A possible date of October 5th has been put out. Tim Swartz corroborated what Janan said. This will be an invite-only event for Mayo and the Veterans Home. There likely won't be a public event this year.

Janan mentioned potential grants for future projects.

Bill, Andrew, Russ, and Jeremy are going to attempt to attend to help on 10/5 from 12-2pm.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: August 18, 2026

Passed 5-0-1

IV. AGENDA UPDATES OR ADDITIONS

V. UPDATES & DISCUSSION

a. Shaw Center Update

Skill Trail:

Is complete. People have been riding it.

Trail counter from 8/28 to 9/11 says 337 counts.

Some permanent signs are in process.

We should be able to close the project out this winter

Trail Work Day:

19 SEP 1000-1400

Andrew is trying to get some of students to help and learn how to repair trails

Probably sticking to the orange trail

Kind of the grand opening of the skills trail

Disc Golf:

Andrew had Zac level out 15 of the tee boxes. 3 will need to be done by hand

Plan now is to look for sponsors to help get better signage and supplies to put pavers in the t-boxes

Trail Signs

Andrew took delivery of the new trail signs (phase 2) for Norwich and Northfield

Andrew just needs a map of where they go and will send students out to dig holes

The sooner the better while the weather is still nice

General SOC

Not sure about the ETA of mowing Norwich side but hopefully soon. Andrew reached out to Jon again on Monday

Events

25-27 SEP: Scouting Camporee

Patriot Games "king of the hill event" this is where the military schools send teams to compete in some challenge. I am still learning about the exact plan but it involves canoeing the Winooski, backpack and ends on Paine mountain. There was a talk about helicopters transporting groups from Norwich. I will learn more this week.

Paine Mountain Trail Race 27 SEP 10-2. Registration is up. Trying to deconflict with the Patriot Games. There was discussion about the conflict and heavy use of Paine Mountain with multiple events. While it is not clear if Patriot Games intends to use the summit, the TFSC has already granted permission to Michael McGrane (Norwich CC coach) to use the trails to the summit for the Paine Mountain Trail race. The TFSC has not been contacted about trail use for the Patriot Games and does not support two events on the same day.

2-3 OCT: Navy/Marine and AFROTC FTX (usually smaller)

30 OCT – 1: NOV AROTC FTX

Soc bonfires are 7-9p there is one bonfire this Friday for the Christian Fellowship that goes until 10p but they have been notified to be quiet after 9

b. Northfield VMBA Chapter Update

No updates at this time

c. Town Forest Easement Update

No updates at this time. Next steps are to get the working group back together and get an example contract put out.

d. Audubon Assessment Report

No updates at this time. Potential for winter work.

e. Future Meetings around Holidays (November 17 & December 15) and Virtual Winter Meetings

The group will go virtual for the winter starting in November. The TFSC will discuss merging the November and December meetings into one meeting.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (UNSCHEDULED) - None

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

The summer weather was good and helped keep trails in good condition. The TFSC will focus on completing Dustin's pasture and boundary marking as workdays this fall.

VIII. ADJOURN - 19:05 - passed 6-0-0