

Town Forest Stewardship Committee
01/17/2023

Jeremy called the meeting to order at 5:48

I. ROLL CALL

Caroline, Mat, Jeremy, Nelson, Colin, Russ
Lydia Petty and Merry Shernock joined around 6:20.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (SCHEDULED): None.
None

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: November 15, 2022

Motion to approve minutes of 11/15/22 by Russ, second by Mat. 5-0-1 (Colin abstaining due to absence)

IV. UPDATES & DISCUSSION

a. NCC Communications

Not much to report, as the holiday season has been rather slow.

The Dog River Park Symposium will be holding an event on knotweed control without herbicides in March

b. VOREC Grant

There is a hold up on funding from FPR, so there hasn't been a lot of movement from the VOREC committee other than advancement of the way-finding component of the project.

Pretty efficient clearing process happened at the Hawk Watch in November. He'll be back a few times next season for pesticide applications to control what springs back up. It would be good to go up ahead of that to build out some lanes through the brush that was cleared this fall to make both the pesticide application and future maintenance easier. This would be a good candidate for an early summer work party.

Motion to appoint Colin to serve as the TFSC representative to the VOREC committee's way-finding working group with Nelson serving as an alternate, second by Nelson. 6-0-0

c. 2023 Goals

- Update the forest management plan.
- Achieve clarity around priorities currently level-set between recreation, conservation, and land management. Actionable steps would be to seek a joint meeting of Selectboard/NCC/Planning Commission, and potentially trying to have these questions woven into the upcoming VCRD visits. More clarity would provide better guidance on many decisions being made by the TFSC.
- Have committee composition updates to the TFSP previously approved by the Selectboard formalized in writing and posted to the town website.
- Continue conversations with NU about rerouting the Ridgeline trail to protect vernal pools on NU property.
- Finish process of formalizing landowner permissions where necessary for trails that leave the TF.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

- There's a lot of maintenance needed uphill of the beaver pond, with a number of large blowdowns and many smaller blowdowns affecting many of the trails on Town Forest property. In addition, there is a lot of maintenance needed on the Ridgeline trail for which work would need to be

coordinated with NU. The portion of the PMT that the group agreed to keep clear (Cheney to beaver pond) does not have any major obstacles.

- The committee is still looking for a youth member for the committee.
- There is a fast track bill being sent through the legislature to allow for all-remote to be renewed as an option for all meetings through July of 2024. Assuming approval, the TFSC will be meeting remotely through the remainder of the winter and early spring.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (UNSCHEDULED)

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Russ at 6:36, second by Caroline. 6-0-0