

# **TOWN OF NORTHFIELD, VERMONT TOWN FOREST STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE Minutes of October 21, 2025**

## **I. ROLL CALL**

Andrew Padilla, Bill Dell'Isola, Russ Barrett, Jeremy Whalen, Ray Crowder, Nelson Hoffman

## **II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (SCHEDULED):** None.

## **III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** September 16, 2025

Moved to approve next month once committee members can review the posted notes.

## **IV. AGENDA UPDATES OR ADDITIONS**

Update on Irish Hill discussions with Berlin CC.

## **V. UPDATES & DISCUSSION**

### **a. Shaw Outdoor Center Update**

Wind phones - someone reached out about installing a windphone for a loved one that recently passed that loved the Paine Mtn trail. We would need signage and some other parts to make it work. It would need to be approved by TFSC. Short discussion about it. There are concerns about it being mistaken for an emergency phone. We are willing to hear out a proposal for this citizen to come talk to us about it. We are not willing to take this on independently.

ROTC just wrapped up FTX. Apparently the army does not give Guidance on where to camp.

Disc golf course has been laid out. Andrew is working on signage. 10/28th is basket install date.

Specialty unit ftx is in November.

Fire pits have been less prevalent this year. We think it may be due to drought.

Andrew mentions he plans to leaf blow some of the backside trails.

Shaw is having bonfires that are scheduled till 930 at night. Andrew is the POC for any fires at the Shaw. Call Norwich public safety with any concerns. There are student staff that attend. There should not be alcohol.

The main rec center is now open to the public. Visit the website for more information.

b. Cheney Field Parking update from the Working Group Meeting

A meeting was held just before the TFSC meeting. Bill was appointed lead and gave an update. This group will meet twice a month to discuss parking vs accessibility of the Town Forest. The goal is to provide the Select Board with recommendations on a path forward. This working group is tasked by the NCC to continue previous discussion about Town Forest accessibility and parking. More details to come from Bill to TFSC and Jeremy/Deb/Dave to the NCC.

c. Community Trail Workday/Norwich Univ. Community Day Projects

November 8th (Sat). Project is to clear the vista in front of hawk watch out to the ledge. Looking to clear any trees that are popping up. If a 2nd group forms, they could leaf blow or cut back the disc golf course. This is the same day as the rook hike.

d. Town Forest Easement Update

Jeremy gives update about meeting with Vermont Land Trust. Presented to Select Board the benefits of forming an easement. More planning to come. Russ suggests meeting with the zoning commission. The main goal would be to prevent selling and subdividing the Town Forest for residential purposes.

Jeremy gives update on work with BCC to conserve the entire ridgeline between BCC and NCC properties. Jeremy mentions BCC was reluctant to connect the two trail systems due to hiking only trails in the BCC properties.

## **VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (UNSCHEDULED)**

### **VII. OTHER BUSINESS**

Andrew brought to our attention that Kingston Rd needs to be graded. This work has not been done yet.

RTD grants opened this week. Mid December due date. Andrew mentions the "easy way up" trail. It was 60k for a 3 mile machine built trail.

Russ is leading a group to check the boundaries of the Town Forest. Searching for pins.

### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**Adjourned 1920 - 6-0-0.**