TOWN OF NORTHFIELD, VERMONT
TOWN FOREST STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE
Minutes of November 17, 2026

I. ROLL CALL: Jeremy Whalen, Andrew Padilla, Ginny Kunkel, Dylan Alsbach, Russ Barrett, Ray Crowder, Bill Dell'Isola

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (SCHEDULED): None

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: October 20, 2026 , approved 7-0-0

IV. AGENDA UPDATES OR ADDITIONS: None

V. UPDATES & DISCUSSION

a. Shaw Center Update. Skills trail has additional drainage installed. 10/7-11/10 had 800+ laps. Disc golf had 22 rounds.

Lybrand Trail update: received a FEMA extension until May 2027. Quotes for repair and potential upgrades are underway. Norwich is getting quotes to rebuild in kind. The repairs will depend on total cost. If FEMA can front the money, repairs will happen, but if Norwich has to get reimbursement, restoration becomes more of a challenge.

Upcoming events - Dec 5 is rook hike

A lengthy conversation was had about recent FTX training and the use of the Town Forest. Trees in the town forest were cut down around the beaver pond. Some trees were around 6" in diameter. Trash, fire pits, and shelters were left within the beaver pond. The TFSC recognizes the beaver pond area as a critical habitat with wetlands and important ecological habitats. We have continuously denied training within the beaver pond area. The Town Forest covers 400 acres, and the TFSC supports training activities in other areas of the property.

TFSC condemns the destruction of town property and requests that the NCC and Town Manager be informed. Jeremy to email the NCC Chair and Town Manager.

Some discussion about potential timber harvest between the two properties. Norwich recently completed a forest management plan and has some recommended timber harvest. Like the Town Forest, access for logging operations would be costly to build roads for access. The TFSC is interested in discussion with Norwich on ways to collaborate on future timber harvest for both properties.

b. Northfield VMBA Chapter Update. No updates.

c. Town Forest Easement Update. No new information. Discuss a check-in approach with NCC.

d. Audubon Assessment Report. Jeremy asked the committee to read the assessment for review in January. Jeremy will send it out to the group.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (UNSCHEDULED): None

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Jeremy to request a Town Forest and NCC joint meeting in the winter.

Update on ski trail yearly maintenance.

No meeting in December for TFSC

NCC dark skies presentation on December 9 at the NCC winter meeting.

VIII. ADJOURN: Adjourned 7:11 p.m. - 7-0-0