

TFSC meeting, 9/20

Jeremy called the meeting to order at 6:01

I. ROLL CALL

Nelson, Russ, Caroline, Colin, Jeremy, Mat

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (SCHEDULED): None.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July 19, 2022

Motion by Russ, second by Caroline. 6-0-0

IV. UPDATES & DISCUSSION

a. Committee Chair/Membership

Nomination of chair: At the previous meeting Jeremy wanted to hold off on approving a nomination until the full committee was present to allow for any other member who wasn't present to serve as chair. Colin motioned for Jeremy to serve as chair, second by Russ, motion carries 6-0-0.

Committee membership: The NCC is looking to fill their vacant seat with a student. The TFSC is also interested in the idea of a student volunteer serving in the vacant TFSC seat. As of now it looks like there are multiple students at the high school that are interested in serving in that type of capacity. The NCC will advertise that vacancy at the school to encourage students to apply to the position.

b. VOREC Grant

Russ provided an update on progress made on execution of the VOREC grant.

The lower portion of the Slate Avenue trail has been repaired.

Bids have been received for the wayfinding master plan for the town forest. There were several bids, including one by Dubois and King who have extensive local knowledge and several other bids from out of state vendors. The VOREC committee recommended awarding the contract to D&K, to be acted upon by the Select Board.

Russ is leading a site visit to the Hawk Watch on Thursday for contractors interested in bidding on the invasive eradication and view clearing. Proposals are going to be coming in early October.

c. Working Group Membership

There were several members missing at the previous meeting when the group discussed rearranging the make-up of the working groups. The subcommittee is amenable to the arrangement discussed at the July meeting.

d. Cheney Field Management

There are a variety of approaches to land management that would support different goals. The TFSP calls out mowing every three years, which the town has been trying to accomplish by mowing a portion every three years rather than mowing the entire field at once less frequently. Nelson moved that the TFSC request a portion of the field to be mowed by the town in keeping with the management plan as detailed in the TFSP. Colin seconded. Motion carries 6-0-0. Colin will contact Jeff with a map indicating where to mow this year and will also be available to meet whoever is mowing the field to provide any necessary clarification.

e. Status of Sign Request to NCC

The NCC had signs printed to hang at entrances to the town forest as per the TFSC request at the last meeting. Colin, Jeremy, and Caroline will hang signs this weekend.

f. Fall Trail Work Scheduling

Potential projects:

At Kingston there is a trail that parallels the dug-way that would make an excellent hiking path and be more sustainable than the trail that has historically run on the class four road. That trail could be formalized if NU is amenable with minimal effort.

It would be good to think about doing a trip through the rock garden to clear out water bars, but it should wait until after any machinery goes up for clearing around the hawk watch. The weekend of 10/22-10/23 is potentially workable.

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (UNSCHEDULED)

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

Given the recent fires in the land adjacent to the town forest the TFSC requests that the NCC contact NU administration to discuss proper training around fire safety for new students and the importance of not having fires near the town forest during very dry spells.

Meetings will likely move to hybrid or entirely remote for the winter.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Russ at 7:16. Second by Nelson. 6-0-0