

TFSC 11/15/22

Meeting called to order at 6:03 by Jeremy

I. ROLL CALL

Jeremy, Colin, Nelson, Russ, Mat, Caroline

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (SCHEDULED): None.

No scheduled public participation

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: October 18, 2022

Motion to approve by Russ, second by Mat, 5-0-1 with Colin abstaining due to absence.

IV. UPDATES & DISCUSSION

a. NCC Communications

Moving forward there will be a standing item for NCC communications on our agenda to discuss NCC information and updates.

15 native trees were planted at the ball fields in the Falls and have been well received by the community with several favorable social media posts.

There was a follow-up on the Dog River Symposium, which went really well. The NCC is interested in focusing on the Dog River and outreach about it to the community.

The NCC is in talks with the CVRPC to conduct geomorphic studies of the Dog River's tributaries. Fires in the TF were discussed at the NCC. The NCC is reaching out to NU to request that reminders be sent to students about fires not being allowed in the town forest and also about the need to respect private properties abutting the Dog River.

Nigel has been working with the manager to determine what the Commissions budget can be used for and how reimbursements for expenses are handled, as well as what an appropriate budget is for the commission.

It's hunting season again, so please remember to wear your orange when you head into the woods.

b. VOREC Grant

John Fogerty of Fogerty Forestry was awarded to conduct the clearing around the Hawk Watch. He's looking to conduct the work this November, likely in the next week or two. Russ would like to be on site during the work to see how it's progressing. If the work is being conducted after 11/26 someone else would have to be on site to supervise the work. He'll be headed up through Kingston, Clarke, and up the Rock Garden. There will be a notice made on Front Porch Forum to let the public know when the work is being started.

DuBois and King has been selected to conduct the Wayfinding Master Plan. Funds have not yet been released by the state, so work has not yet started.

More work is going to be done on Slate/Lybrand, paid for with additional grant funding.

The next VOREC committee meeting is December 12th.

c. Cheney Field Japanese Knot Weed Control

Earlier this fall the town mowed the entire Cheney field. There is concern that mowing has happened in areas where there is Japanese Knotweed, and what the most appropriate control measures are. Black plastic control has been suggested as a potential material to kill the root stalk, though it would likely be a multi-year plan.

There is a high likelihood that there is going to be construction happening around the reservoirs in the meadow. Maybe the entire area could be scraped clean while there is equipment in the area and the knotweed removed from the site? Colin will check with Jeff on timing of the project and whether this is a possibility.

Should efforts be concentrated on preventing the spread on the uphill side of the road?

The Dog River Park committee is working to find an expert on Knotweed control and it would be good to collaborate. Jeremy will reach out to Simon to coordinate.

It would also be good to reach out to ANR to see what resources are available at the state level. Caroline will investigate this.

d. Fall Trail Work wrap up

This fall, 11 waterbars were cleared and one new waterbar put in, all three bridges were cleared, ditches along the PMT were cleared from Cheney to the Beaver Pond, and debris blocking the crossing at the Beaver Pond was removed. Mat, Nelson, and Russ put in a solid day, and because of this the trails are in great shape for the winter. Jeremy would like to see more public callouts of the type and amount of work being done so that the community knows how much work goes into maintaining our public assets.

e. Winter Trail Maintenance

Most trail maintenance happens in the warmer months, but there is still maintenance that does have to happen in the winter if there's to be a consistent and safe user experience. In the past, downed trees, etc. have been cleared by informal volunteer efforts. Is this something that we want to take on formally? Discussion ensued concerning the potential to maintain the PMT, but leave hazards on other trails to be cleared similarly to how they have been previously. The trail maintenance group is happy to keep the PMT clear between the Cheney Meadow and the Beaver Pond.

f. Membership

The NCC now has a 9th grade student member from NMHS. Jeremy is continuing to explore whether there is a student interested in joining the TFSC.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

a. December Meeting: Tuesday, December 20, 2022

Colin moved to defer business for the December 20 meeting to January 23 and cancel the December 20 meeting, second by Russ. 6-0-0

Jeremy would like to use the January meeting as an opportunity to set goals for 2023.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (UNSCHEDULED)

No unscheduled public participation

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Russ, second by Caroline. 6-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:50pm.