

TOWN OF NORTHFIELD, VERMONT
TOWN FOREST STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE
Minutes of November 18, 2025

I. ROLL CALL Start 1807

Russ Barrett, Ginny Kunkel, Andrew Padilla, Jeremy Whalen, Bill Dell'Isola, Ray Crowder

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (SCHEDULED): None

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Sept 16th, 2025, and Oct 21st, 2025

Russ motions to approve minutes

September - 5-0-1 - Ray abstained

October - 5-0-1 - Ginny abstained

IV. Agenda updates or Additions:

Jeremy - Recommendations to the town for the illegal road that was put in for the water tank replacement.

Dustin's pasture marking update

Recent work on the ski trail

V. UPDATES AND DISCUSSION

a. Shaw Center update:

Ropes in the trees will be taken down by Thursday.

Tree guy is coming again to clean up limb piles from the disc golf course. All 18 are playable.

Sponsorship for tee boxes and tree work is in process.

FTX in Feb.

WFA class on 1/17&18 - \$225 - is open to community members. Typically 8-4.

Tree down on ridgeline.

Bathrooms will still be open during the holidays.

Ginny asks if it would make sense to mark the boundaries between Northfield and Norwich a little better than they are now. Signs that have been put up in the past have disappeared.

Potential updates to the Town Stewardship plan are possible after the new year.

b. Cheney Field parking update from the working group meetings

Bill gives a recap of the last three meetings and a site visit.

Looked at 2022 feasibility options weighed against construction for accessibility vs access. Exploring parking options, seasonal access options, weighing concerns and challenges raised during the summer. The group is working to provide a recommendation to the Select Board later this winter.

c. Community trail workday/Norwich Day of Service

Andrew and Jeremy had 8 cadets sign up. They walked most of the trails from Kingston to the summit clearing trail and the overlook at hawkwatch.

Volunteer hours form is still in use.

d. Town Forest easement update

NCC members had a meeting with Jeff on how we move this forward and identify next steps. More updates to come during next week's NCC meeting.

There is a slight sense of urgency to get this done during the Select Board's budget season. To be continued.

e. December 16th and January 20th meetings

Next two meetings will be in the Senior Center.

Jeremy is unavailable for the Jan meeting.

Ray is unavailable for the meeting in December. Ray can help with the agenda for Jan.

12/16 should have acceptable participation and mostly remote.

VI. Public Participation (Unscheduled): None

VII. Other Business:

Recommendations to the town for field restoration due to the illegal road that was put in for the water tank replacement. Jeremy wants the group to think of ideas for restoration. Seeding with wildflowers was thrown out. Bill mentions using a native plant mix to truly restore the area. We should add this to the next meeting agenda. NCC should be involved in any conversations for restoration.

Dustin's pasture marking update. Russ tells us that the work is half done. Thanks to the team that made it out there.

Recent work on the ski trail. Joe led a team of 7 people for a half day of trail work on the ski trail.

Last week's Wednesday Friends of the Winooski meeting. NCC, TFSC, Trout Unlimited, Dog River Walking Trail, and NCDN met to discuss opportunities for collaboration around a grant that the Friends of the Winooski. Jeremy gave an update on some of the outcomes of the meeting. It seems there were common themes amongst the groups due to budgets and visibility of other projects that impact the work these groups are doing. The next meeting is in December.

VIII. Adjourn