

TOWN OF NORTHFIELD, VERMONT
TOWN FOREST STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE
Minutes of January 16, 2024

Meeting called to order at 6:10 pm by Jeremy

I. ROLL CALL: Jeremy, Russ, Nelson, and Andrew

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Dec 5th, 2023, postponed until the next meeting.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (SCHEDULED): None.

IV. DISCUSSION

- a) Shaw Center: Andrew has applied for RTG grant for funding to build an accessible trail from the Shaw to the Anchor. A portion of the trail will cut through Cheney field and town property. The project made it through the first round of approvals.

Shaw Center is looking for a snow machine to pull the trail groomer around. Once they have a machine, they will also groom a Cheney Field loop.

Submitted an ARPA request to the town manager for funding to design a disc golf course for town and Norwich use.

Slate Ave/Lybrand trail: Funds are needed for the engineering study. The study is required to be eligible for FEMA funds. Additionally, it would be challenging for the university to front the money and wait for FEMA reimbursement.

Additional parking at Shaw Center is being held up due to permitting.

- b) VOREC grant: Finalizing the wayfinding signage. Bids for installation have come back higher than expected.

The committee has applied for additional funds through the VOREC grant to install the signage.

The TFSC chair wrote a letter of support for additional funds on behalf of the TFSC. That letter was included in the application package.

- c) TFSC 2024 goals:

- a. From 2023, continue to update the Town Forest Stewardship Plan. Changes to incorporate are a plan for Cheney field management. The committee would like to meet with the F&W Natural Community Ecologist and discuss what Cheney field can be feasibly managed for. Add two appendices, one that details the Cheney Field mowing schedule and another that details the new trail request approval process.
- b. Zoning designation of Town Forest property. Currently, the NCC has taken the lead on this.
- c. Group outing to mark the boundaries of Dustin's Pasture.
- d. Investigate the status of the maple tapping lease on Dustin's pasture property.
- e. Continue the E-bike usage discussion.
- f. Create a map of highlighted areas off limits to various activities such as camping. This will be helpful when the town receives requests for FTX and other training from Norwich.

- g. Continue routine trail work such as clearing blowdowns, fixing water bars, and maintaining infrastructure.

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (UNSCHEDULED): None

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

- a) The committee now has an open seat after the resignation of Colin Bright. The TFSC will meet with the High School and NCC to discuss trail maintenance on Garvey Hill. TFSC will ask if the high school has students interested in joining as a youth voice.
- b) Jeremy will inquire with Ken about the committee members term status for 2024 and discuss reappointments at the February meeting as needed.
- c) Jeremy to set up an annual joint meeting between TFSC and NCC.
- d) We discussed hosting a lunar totality event in Cheney Field during the upcoming lunar eclipse in April. Jeremy will discuss this with NCC also.

VII. ADJOURNMENT: 7 pm