

Northfield Town Forest Stewardship Committee

12/16/20

In attendance: John Sears, Lydia Petty, Colin Bright, Russ Barrett, Nelson Hoffman (arrived 6:10)

Approval of minutes of November 17, 2020:

Motion by John, second by Lydia, 4-0-0

Committee member updates:

- Mike Gonneval is still interested in participating in the committee, but not until the new year.
- Norwich has made the Shaw Outdoor Center available to the public while students are away. Not much activity up there so far.
- Russ replaced the Librand trail sign.

Working group updates:

Forest Access/Management:

Forest access/timber harvest: Workgroup members have been in touch with Rose Beatty regarding location for a new route into the forest, likely in the vicinity of Butternut Junction. They'll be meeting in the new year for the discussion. Conversation followed regarding the purpose of the new access point, which is primarily for woodlot management. It's been many years since the last timber harvest, and one needs to happen in the next 5-6 years to maintain a healthy woodlot. Discussion also covered the potential for a new route to also provide increased recreational access; further conversation will be had about whether such access is suitable for recreation access, parking, etc.

Mapping:

Russ has been in contact with Arrowwood consulting about access to the data used in creating the Town Forest Management Plan; we own all of the data and are welcome to use it as needed. CVRP will provide 12 hours of fresh GIS work, which needs to be requested through the town manager. In addition to coalescing the data from the Management Plan into a single GIS project, additional layers will include adjacent properties with parcel ID and owner names, and unsanctioned trails (and any trails not currently included on the town forest map). Russ will speak with Jeff about getting the process going.

This workgroup is combination of GIS mapping and master planning. When the mapping project is completed the workgroup will be expanded to include others that have expressed interest or are well suited to developing that master plan.

Special events:

The workgroup is working on creating criteria for approval of special events by management rather than the committee to allow for better access to the forest by groups whose uses align with those outlined in the plan.

Education:

Mike will be joining in in the new year.

Term limits

The subcommittee discussed the need for term limits, and for amending the TFSP to allow for up to 7 members. Further discussion ensued regarding the composition of the non-NCC members user group affiliations.

Motion by Lydia to request that the NCC amend the plan to make the TFSC consist of up to 7 members, consisting of 2-3 members of the CC, and 4 non-members representing the natural resource management, education, and recreation communities. Second by John. 5-0-0

Other business:

- Lydia: raised possibility of a walking/hiking based book discussion group.
- Dave Packie has resigned his seat on the Conservation Commission. Hopefully he will still be willing to work with the subcommittee when the time comes to build out a comprehensive recreation management plan.

Adjournment at 6:42, moved by Nelson, seconded by Lydia