

**TOWN OF NORTHFIELD, VERMONT**  
**Town Forest Stewardship Committee**  
**Minutes of August 20th 2024**

- I. ROLL CALL- 18:01** - Ginny Kunkel, Nelson Hofman, Russ Barett, Jeremy Whalen, Colin Blackmon, Andrew Padilla, Ray Crowder
- II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (SCHEDULED):** None.
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July 16, 2024:** Approved 7/0/0
- IV. AGENDA UPDATES/ADDITIONS**  
Russ asks that boundary marking of Dustin's pasture be added to agenda.

**V. UPDATES & DISCUSSION**

**a. Shaw Outdoor Center Update**

- New signs going up soon. Shaw Center, military training in progress, no live ammo, remote cameras in use. Will be multiple signs on each pole.
- Students come back Monday 8/26. Sign work will start shortly after they arrive.
- Mowing update. Andrew is looking for people to take this on.
- Meeting with Norwich leadership to discuss proper land use. ie - where camping is allowed.
- ARPA grant for disc golf course will begin design late August/early September.
- Potential orienteering course coming to Norwich property.
- Scouting jamboree on September 27-29. Will be using property for orienteering and bonfire.
- Andrew will share any future events he is aware of ahead of time.
- Jeff Schulz is going to send a crew up to grade Kingston road up to the gate.

**b. NMHS Trails Working Group/ARPA Request Update**

- Jeremy informs the group of a \$40k award in ARPA funding.
- Jeremy thinks there may be a possibility of the remaining \$35k being awarded at a later time.
- Next steps involve signing paperwork and scoping projects with VYCC.

**1. Town Forest Trail Work Priorities by VYCC**

- Jeremy's top priorities are puncheon work at beaver pond and bypassing vernal pools.
- Small discussion about reroute away from vernal pools. Will remove trail from butternut junction. Trail reroute will roughly go up the very bottom of the ski trail that was cut last fall and rejoin existing summer trail.
- Ray mentions following the existing trail establishment process if a new trail is cut.
- Ray also mentions puncheons not being great for bicycles and possible ride arounds that could pop up.
- Russ mentions connecting Slate Ave to an old slate road that is on town property. This is a possible community trail workday opportunity. Russ mentions that this connection would not be too hard to build. This trail would also need to follow the approval process.
- Small discussion about potential location of trail.
- Russ and Ray would like to see the drainage on the Paine mountain trail addressed before doing puncheon work. Possibly could reroute existing trail instead of puncheon work.

- Russ mentions that any funding shortfalls from the VYCC ARPA money could be picked up by future grant opportunities.
- Andrew is going to discuss the Lybrand property with General McCullough.
- Jeremy is going to reconnect with VYCC to nail down scope and asks that group identify project priorities.
- Recap of estimated project costs in Garvey and Town Forest.
- Funds must be under contract by December 2024, with work complete by 2025.
- Russ asks if other trail crews could be considered for the ARPA fund work. Ray and Jeremy think it would be against the spirit of the grant award at this point.
- Nelson proposes reroute away from vernal pool as first priority, and 2nd priority to be connecting Slate Ave to Lybrand - Ray motions to approve - Ginny seconds - pass 7/0/0
- Agenda item for next month - determine task force for trail approval process.

**c. Committee Trail Workdays Discussion**

- Jeremy wants to focus on hosting committee/community workdays every spring and fall.
- Jeremy mentions designating a member to lead discussions and be responsible for maintaining momentum on trail workdays. Colin is willing to fill this role.
- Discussion on potential fall projects; pruning of trails, drainage on Paine trail, tree down on ski trail.
- Colin suggests a Saturday late September/early October.
- Steve Rand is looking for volunteers for digging holes for VOREC signage.
- Trail workday discussed. Target date is 10/5 with 10/12 as 2nd/rain date.
- Jeremy is going to send Colin listserv. Colin is going to keep track of people that express interest.
- Priorities are trail pruning and drainage. Sections are to be identified at the next meeting. Jeremy to work with Colin to get this out.
- Andrew mentions the need to submit volunteer forms. Ray will maintain records as secretary. We will have a form and sign in sheet at all trail work days. These records need to be submitted to Ray.
- More work needs to be done to make volunteer forms and hours tracking easier.

**d. Audubon Society and Cheney Field Plan**

- No updates

**e. Town Forest Plan Update**

- No updates

**V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (UNSCHEDULED)**

- No public participation.

**VI. OTHER BUSINESS**

- Dustin's pasture boundary marking work. Russ asks for volunteers to mark boundaries with town forest signs. Many of the group chime in to help. Russ will identify some dates and send them to the group.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT - 19:27**