

**TOWN OF NORTHFIELD, VERMONT  
TOWN FOREST STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE  
Minutes of December 17, 2024**

- I. ROLL CALL - 1804-** Russ Barrett, Jeremy Whalen, Andrew Padilla, Ray Crowder, Nelson Hoffman
- II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (SCHEDULED):** None.
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** October 15, 2024 and November 19, 2024  
- 4-0-1
- IV. AGENDA UPDATES OR ADDITIONS**
- V. UPDATES & DISCUSSION**
  - a. Shaw Outdoor Center Update**

Students are gone today at noon, back Jan 7.

Colin Bright worked on signage in town center and by the Shaw center. Possibility of using skid steer to place the rest of the signage in the late spring/summer.

Grooming by John G to take place once more snow falls.

WFA course on Jan 11 and 12, 9a-5p. This is open to the public for \$225.

Andrew cleaned up webbing from MCW. Unsure if MCW cleaned up their illegal campfires.

ARPA grant for disc golf course is underway. Chris Young from Disc Golf VT is engaged to start design work. Hopefully the course construction begins this summer.

FEMA does not plan to pay for landslide repair. Andrew plans to appeal.
  - b. Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC) Update**

Jeremy is in a holding pattern as VYCC reassigns staff after Jenn Krebs departure.

Hoping to begin sawyer work on Garvey Hill after the New Year.
  - c. Forest and Parks Trails Grant**

The group bandwidth on the RTG Forest and Parks Trails Grant did not allow for pursuing this grant. However, we expect to work towards future grants as opportunities arise.
  - d. Lybrand Trail Bypass Discussion**

At last week's NCC meeting, Simon Parish joined to discuss the possibility of reroute. An alternate route was identified that would follow the stream and resume connectivity of the existing trail.

Another consideration was parking in Cheney Field. NCC has tasked TFSC with discussing the possibility of parking in Cheney Field.

**e. Cheney Field Discussion**

Jeremy discloses a conflict of interest in leading this discussion and asks Russ (Vice Chair) to lead the discussion on potential parking in the field.

During water tank replacement, a temporary parking lot will be built for the construction workers. Is there a possibility of maintaining the lot for public access?

Russ mentions a study from Dubois and King that calls out considerable opposition to this possibility.

Nelson weighs in that there are many ecological reasons for not allowing parking in Cheney Field.

Russ is opposed unless substantial improvements are made to Byam road. Unclear what the winter impact would be.

Jeremy is opposed for the same reasons that Russ and Nelson mention. Reiterates that he has a conflict of interest on this subject.

Ray does not see what we would gain from parking in the field. It would destroy its remote feeling. There are alternative parking areas at Shaw and in town.

Russ mentions that a social trail was established up the Lybrand route within days of the flood that destroyed it in July 2023.

Motion to oppose pursuing parking in Cheney field on the grounds of the D&K study, VOREC efforts around signage and community equipment storage, natural beauty, and existing easy access to Town Forest land from Shaw and Lybrand - Andrew 2nds - 4-0-1. Jeremy abstains, citing conflict of interest.

**f. Planning Commission (PC) Zoning Update**

PC has formed a working group to work with NCC to continue the discussion of getting Cheney and Dustin's Pasture rezoned. NCC is also looking into easements and other avenues to preserve the existing townland.

**VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (UNSCHEDULED).** There was none.

**VII. OTHER BUSINESS**

- a. Nelson wants to treat the removal of the fire pits as a vegetation restoration project.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT - 1851 - 5-0-0**