

**TOWN OF NORTHFIELD, VERMONT
TOWN FOREST STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE
Minutes of November 19, 2024**

I. ROLL CALL

Jeremy Whalen, Russ Barrett, Andrew Padilla, Nelson Hoffman, Ginny Kunkel

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (SCHEDULED): None.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: October 15, 2024, postponed due to updates

IV. AGENDA UPDATES

- a. Ski trail uphill travel signage

V. UPDATES & DISCUSSION

a. Shaw Outdoor Center Update

Andrew had a call with Andrew and Andrew about signage placements

Shaw Center will be closed from Friday through December 2nd for Holiday break and then another closure for Christmas

Jan 11th and 12th Shaw Center will be hosting a Wilderness First Aid training and recertification.

Last-minute FTX training was held the weekend of November 16th.

Jan 6th there will be an Airforce training at Shaw.

Discussion about statewide fire bans and where to find them. Russ directed Andrew to FPR website. Jeremy can also share emails from FPR press releases.

FEMA denied the landslide claim. Looking for other funds to repair the slide.

Disk Golf VT met with Andrew and is going to provide plans for the course this winter.

Cheney Field gate has been closed due to motor vehicles in the field from Norwich training.

b. Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC) Update

VYCC provided a Service Agreement to the Town Manager to obligate the ARPA funds. There were a couple of corrections requested from the town and those have been corrected, and the agreement is going before the Select Board for final approval.

c. Forest and Park Trails Grant

The new grant cycle is now open and FPR is accepting pre-applications through Dec 6th. The Trails Workgroup is working to apply and is using the information from the ARPA funds application.

d. Lybrand Trail Bypass Proposal

At the last meeting adjoining neighbor Simon Pearish joined our discussion. We received an email from him a few weeks later stating that he felt that the area in question was going to be too wet to build a bypass trail.

There was a discussion around this and it was decided to get professional trail builders' input on the feasibility of the trail re-route and and outside prospective of other options. The end goal is to reopen town forest access from Slate Ave.

e. Cheney Field Knotweed Discussion

Jeremy talked with the Town Manager about ways to inform the construction company that has been contracted to replace the water tanks on how not to disturb and spread the knotweed in the field. The Town Manager is going to provide an general conditions cut sheet so Jeremy can draw the area in question.

Jeremy also obtained a copy of the Round up pesticide label approvaed for Knotweed removal. The TFSC would like to remove this invasive sp from the field. Chemical treatment is one way. We also discussed black tarps to hinder growth next season.

f. Planning Commission (PC) Zoning Update

None

g. Norwich Community Day

Russ said the day went well, Norwich students broke into two groups. Russ took some students to Hawk Watch to do the annual Vista clearing. Andrew took the other students around to dig holes for the new VOREC signage install.

Russ mentioned that there were an estimated 30-40 students on their way up to Hawk Watch for FTX training. Concerns about human waste management for that many people with no facilities for an overnight were voiced.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (UNSCHEDULED) None

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Ski Trail signage request from Joe Zuaro. Joe had emailed Jeremy and Ray about placing some signs to direct people to an uphill travel trail this winter. Last winter uphill travel occurred on the downhill trail leaving less than ideal conditions. After discussion the TFSC approved Joe's request with the condition that they install them in the fall and remove them in the spring.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT:19:03