

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

- I. **ROLL CALL: Andrew Padilla, Ginny Kunkel, Russ Baret, Jeremy Whalen, Ray Crowder, Nelson Hofman, and Colin Blockman. Public: Woody S**
- II. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (SCHEDULED): None**
- III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024: Approved 5-0-1**
- IV. **Agenda updates**
  - a. **Tree planting update**
  - b. **NCC is working with an organization on an opportunity to get grants for free trees. Opportunity is open to non-government organizations and citizens. There is a list of trees that can be ordered and distributed in the fall. They are looking for community input. Ginny mentions how advantageous planting apple trees at the bottom of Cheney Field.**
- V. **UPDATES AND DISCUSSION**
  - a. **Shaw Center update**
    - i. **Nelson took out a lot of downed trees on the trails**
    - ii. **No known damage from the 7/7 storm**
    - iii. **Cleared parts of the paintball course**
    - iv. **Buying a little lawn mower for small lawn maintenance**
    - v. **Rule signs are going up soon**
  - b. **HS trails working group/ VYCC site visit**
    - i. **Went in front of Select Board on 6/25**
    - ii. **The select board has asked for additional documentation before making a decision**
    - iii. **Jeremy, Russ, and Nelson met with VYCC to look at projects within the town forest. VYCC is updating estimates and defining projects for Select Board approval**
    - iv. **Making a detailed map of work locations**
    - v. **Getting letters of support from School Admins**
  - c. **Audubon Society and Cheney Field plan and Town forest plan update**

- i. Ginny and Russ went on-site visit with Audubon and VYCC
- ii. Walked most of the Town property
- iii. Big concern about invasive species including bitter sweet
- iv. There is mature timber that could be logged
- v. Invasive removal and road work would cost about \$300k
- vi. Beaver pond is in good shape. Goal is to keep it as it is.
- vii. Cheney field was discussed. More discussion about soft edges and benefits to the field.
- viii. Robert offered to give priority list of things that should be tackled
- ix. Audubon report is expected in fall to winter
- d. Discussion around Lybrand rehab options
  - i. Russ asks that the reroute be minimalized.
- e. Town Forest easement conversation
  - i. Jeremy had conversation with David M. about how to get Town Forest protected/conserved. Select Board at one point approved the pursuit of putting Town forest into an easement
  - ii. Jeremy asks if Norwich would be interested in putting their land into an easement to take advantage of grant opportunities by packaging larger chunks of land with the Town's land.

**VI. Public Participation (Unscheduled): None**

**VII. Other Business: None**

**VIII. Adjournment - 18:38**