

**TOWN OF NORTHFIELD, VERMONT
TOWN FOREST STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE
Minutes of October 15, 2024**

I. ROLL CALL

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

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (SCHEDULED): None.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: September 17, 2024

Approved 6-0-0

IV. AGENDA UPDATES

None

V. UPDATES & DISCUSSION

a. Shaw Outdoor Center Update

New signs are up

Army, Navy, Air Force FTX this weekend 10/19

Drone flying this weekend at Shaw Center

All units have been briefed on sensitive areas to be avoided during FTX

b. Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC) Update

Jeremy has spoken with Jenns Krebs. Received pricing from VYCC. Currently working through the contracting side of things in order to allocate funds by December.

c. October Trail Workday Wrap-up

Split into two groups.

Moved Fern Alley signs to proper location. Trimmed butternut junction. Looked like someone had beat the group to it.

Next trail workday will be in the spring.

23 volunteer hours logged in the Town Forest so far in October.

d. Lybrand Trail Bypass Proposal

Jeremy has submitted application for new trail proposal to TFSC.

e. Cheney Field Knotweed Discussion

Jeremy asks for input on the process on how/if we should propose moving forward. This project has been bid and awarded. Removal of knotweed could be scope change as part of the water tank replacement project.

Russ explains that removal by digging it out just moves the problem to another location. Treating it in place with tarps or chemicals may be preferable but we would need to go out for estimates for removal from licensed applicators.

Jeremy thinks we should come up with recommendations for construction crew to limit the spread of invasive species during the build process.

Future discussions on other invasives and making a plan for treatment and mitigation could be focus of the TFSC this winter.

f. Planning Commission (PC) Zoning Update

Jeremy attended the most recent meeting. Zoning commission has plan that would keep low density zone of town forest but with special designations that have been successful in other communities. Zoning commission is interested in participation with a working group to continue the discussions.

g. November 19 and December 17, 2024 Meeting Dates (Holidays)

The group will meet on 11/19 and 12/17.

The TFSC will meet remotely during the winter.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (UNSCHEDULED)

Simon Pearish joins the meeting. Jeremy gives an overview of the trail construction basis. Andrew gives an update from the site visit about the current condition of the old slate road and proposed trail location.

Simon lets us know the current proposed area is a very wet spot. Simon also lets us know that there is a spot further up the existing trail on Norwich property that could make a good reroute.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Norwich community day. Jeremy asked for 5-8 volunteers to help with signs and other Town Forest work. Potential projects includes post hole digging and clearing vista at Hawk Watch trail.

VOREC committee gave funds for programming. The overall feedback has been positive. Jeremy asks if we should try to keep the outdoor programs going. He is going to add it to the NCC agenda for next week.

Jeremy proposes continuing effort on Lybrand Bypass trail. The whole committee approves. Nelson proposes efforts to close down the existing trail once the bypass is complete.

Ginny met with Jason Endres and saw his map work. She put Russ in touch to map key points of interest in the Town Forest. Ginny asks if Jason's hours should be logged to our volunteer form? The group thinks why not. Ginny will send Jason's contact info so he can get link to volunteer form.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT