

Andrews Community Forest Management Committee

Minutes of September 23, 2019

Present: Geoffrey Urbanik, Marcy Harding; Ellen Kraft, Jim Monahan, Tyler Merritt, Rob Peterson; Peter Halvorsen

A. Approval of Minutes of August 26, 2019; September 8, 2019

Marcy Harding moved to approve the minutes of August 26, 2019 and was seconded by Rob Peterson. The motion carried 6-0-1 with Peter Halvorsen abstaining.

Marcy Harding moved to approve the minutes of September 8, 2019 and was seconded by Jim Monahan. The motion carried 6-0-1 with Peter Halvorsen abstaining.

B. Forest Management Plan review; site tour October 5th 1-3pm; Committee review October 28th; Selectboard November 4th

Mr. Urbanik explained the proposed schedule for Ethan Tapper's Forest Management Plan, which was to have a site tour on October 5th, come to the ACF meeting on October 28th, and possibly present to the Selectboard on November 4th. Peter Halvorsen, who has filled the seat vacated by Guy Roberts, had some experience forestry and timber harvesting and listed some concerns and suggested changes, which the committee discussed. Mr. Urbanik requested that Mr. Halvorsen provide these directly to Ethan Tapper, and copy him on any correspondence. It was noted that Celia Danks and Wright Preston had commented and Ethan Tapper was aware of their comments.

C. Trail Design RFP – will this work with grant under D?

Jim Monahan and Tyler Merritt were finalizing an RFP for trail design services. There was discussion on how the final RFP should be handled. It was agreed that one RFP should be for design of a larger trail network and a smaller RFP should go out for design and construction (priced separately) for the lower trail. Mr. Urbanik reminded everyone that the Selectboard had to be the one to approve funding and award any contracts. Mr. Urbanik agreed to call Adam Piper at VLT to see if they had an ecologist that could consult and advise the committee on the layout and location of the proposed trail.

D. Recreational Trails Grant Program (prelim due 10/31)

Mr. Urbanik asked if anyone had time to pursue this grant. This grant was applied for last year by Guy Roberts, but was rejected due to lack of signage on the road, which is a state highway. The committee had approval to purchase signs to correct this, but the exact sign requirements were unknown. Mr. Urbanik had reached out to the recreational trails program for details.

Ms. Kraft agreed to try and get the original application from Guy Roberts to use as a template for application this year.

E. Maplewind Lease

Mr. Urbanik noted that he still needed to construct the sketch of the leased premises but that the Hennesseys could still use the field if necessary.

Reports and old business follow-up: Mr. Urbanik noted that the final signatures on the Management Plan were in place. He would also submit for a modest expense budget for the committee for FY2021.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.