**Andrews Community Forest**

Monday, October 26, 2020 – 7pm – minutes

**Present**: Ellen Kraft, Caitlin Littlefield, Tyler Merritt, Jim Monahan, Nick Neverisky, Jesse Crary, Ethan Tapper, Wright Preston (chair)

**Public**: None

**Appointed minute taker**: JC

**Amendments to the agenda**: none

**Public comment**: none

**Minutes approval**

WP moves to approve September 28, 2020 minutes. AP seconds. (7/0/0)

**Logging update**

* Ethan provides update on logging effort to date
* Weather not cooperating, wet between landing and woods
* 16 cords collected to date
* Discuss effect of Emeral Ash Borer – still able to process wood as disposed of prior to flight season; firewood more of a hazard and must remain in Richmond
* Ethan provides update on ongoing educational content

**Emerald Ash Borer Update**

* CL provides update on Richmond town plan for addressing infestation
* Town responsible for all trees within 25’ of center of roads; approx. 900 ash trees in Richmond
* Most trees to be cut down with specific trees (significant specimen or key locations) to be treated and saved
* ET provides overview of ash borer in ACF – very likely already in forest; not much ash in forest; any ash logs must remain in Richmond and cannot be distributed more widely

**ATV Use on VAST Trail**

* WP discusses concerns over recreational ATV accessing and using ATF trails
* Power line contractors currently utilizing VAST access to make repairs – very respectful
* WP to walk land on VYCC border to investigate possible ATV use from that side
* Consider gate on west side of property at Kelly land – possibility that Velco or GMP could donate gate

**Trail Design Ecological Assessment RFP Update**

* JM reports six RFPs sent out by Tyler and Jim – already received two positive responses
* Deadline for questions November 1
* Discuss initial question from Arrowhead over timeframe for ecological assessment
* Committee determines open to alternative project timelines; provide budget to create boundaries ($8k-$15k with cost effectiveness to be considered)
* RFP subcommittee to meet and formalize response to questions posed

**Trail Naming Opportunities**

* WP provides update on plans for Urbanik trail naming ceremony
* Plan is to hold a virtual ceremony with a limited number of persons at actual site
* WP to install post at trail head and JM to affix sign to post in advance of ceremony

**Management of the ACF Facebook Page and Other Media**

* ET discusses resources available and ongoing work to maintain Andrews Community Forest page on Richmond Town website -- notes page could be more dynamic and useful if Committee could manager rather than having to rely on Josh Arneson
* NN confirms willingness to take over management. Josh Arneson has confirmed willingness to provide instruction on how to manage page
* NN confirms he is also now actively maintaining ACF Facebook page

**UVM Science Learning Class Possible Projects**

* No update

**Maplewind Farm License Review**

* No update

**Other Business – Snowmobile Usage**

* VAST confirmed will not be opening corridor trails, including ATF section due to lack of permission from other nearby landowners (fourth year running corridor will be closed)
* Preliminary discussion of issues related to possibly granting permission to private residents to groom and snowmobile on ATF section of old VAST trail

**Other Business -- Committee Chair Discussion**

* JC moves to reappoint WP as Chair. CL seconds. (7/0/0)

**Meeting adjourned at 8:30**