**Andrews Community Forest**

Wednesday, July 28, 2021 – 7pm – minutes

**Present**: Jesse Crary (chair), Amy Powers, Ellen Kraft, Caitlin Littlefield, Nick Neverisky

**Public**: Brad Elliot

**Appointed minute taker**: CL

**Public comment**: none

**Additions to Agenda**

* Richmond traffic ordinance in relationship to parking at ACF
* ACF committee bylaws (4 pages in ACF Mgmt Plan)

**Minutes Approval**

* CL makes motion to approve minutes of June 28, 2021. 5Y/0N/0A

**ACF Mgmt Plan Revision/Amendment**

* Discussion re: what full revision constitutes.
  + General agreement that total overhaul isn’t necessary.
  + Need to find original .doc to edit the 35-45
  + NN will dig through drive then reach out to Hannah Phillips if we can’t find original
* Important to get mgmt plan ducks in a row so that committee can advance in, for example, building trails. JC advises subcommittee to work on that.
  + Wright Preston (not present) volunteered via email to be on subcommittee that revises mgmt plan.
  + Should have >1 person to reconcile differing opinions and mutually define scope of revisions
  + NN volunteers to be on mgmt plan revision subcommittee
  + Check in with Tyler Merrit (not present), Jim Monahan (not present), Cecelia Danks (not present) to see if they would engage on subcommittee.
  + If this ends up not being productive, then we’ll hold a special mtg for collective editing
  + Big goal: reconcile areas within the mgmt plan that are conflicting (eg requisite buffers, trail density, engagement with ecologists, etc.)
* JC: We are on the committee to implement the mgmt plan and represent the interests of the town residents -- not one side or the other.
* EK asks if there’s a “return policy” -- can we make adjustments to plan that they’ll implement? They’ve maxed out budget, so likely no. NN advises we look at their proposal to see what’s in there. AP reminds us that some specific objectives (eg connectivity to VYCC) was in RFP but was not included in the final trail design.
* Potential mtg with Arrowood, Sinuosity, RCC, VLT, SB -- holding Aug. 23rd and 24th.
  + Prepare Qs in advance to send to Arrowood and Sinuosity in advance
    - eg slope (EK checked in with DRB re: what’s needed as a recreational facility)
    - eg why three northward trails, incl. the one right along the riparian corridor
    - eg VYCC trail connector?
  + CL and JM are compiling Qs reflecting convos/concerns re: trails
* AP asks if we may be able to move forward with building subset of trails that everyone agrees upon; JC points out that would require two revisions and two SB meetings
* AP adds that big gap in mgmt plan (and in general, our conservation) is that we aren’t addressing next generation -- eg forest play area for little kids, natural playground -- to help foster the next generation of forest stewards. So much outdoor recreation is geared towards adults right now.
  + Add as aspirational language in mgmt plan?
  + AP, EK, CL glad to pursue

**Logging Project Close Out Report**

* Release of security deposit to Tim Brown
  + WP drafted letter to Josh Arneson to give close-out report to town to release $1,500 bond. (JC reads letter)
  + NN makes motion to approve use; JC seconds. 4Y/0N/1A
* Close-out, waterbars, culverts
  + WP and Ethan Tapper (Chittenden County Forester) advises
  + Waterbars refreshed on old farm road by VYCC
  + WP feels that it’s done
  + WP volunteers to skid smashed metal culverts to Hwy 2
  + CL mentions large pile of dirt at culvert -- defer to Ethan Tapper and WP, but aesthetically large pile of dirt should be settled.
  + CL makes motion to authorize WP to remove culverts as described and request that he smooths large pile of dirt at crossing on farm road; NN seconds. 5Y/0N/0A
* Hinesburg would like to use casing culvert for Hinesburg Town Forest (overseen by ET)
  + JC communicated with the town; town confirms no issues with releasing culvert
  + CL makes motion to approve usage by Hinesburg; JC seconds. 5Y/0N/0A

**Richmond Traffic Ordinance**

* Language to be evaluated in traffic ordinance, including ACF.
  + “No person shall park outside of parking lot”; committee approves
  + “No parking dusk-dawn”; committee wants to enable hunters and other recreation pre-dawn/post-dusk so consider changing to no overnight parking.
* NN makes motion to communicate back to Josh Arneson those specifics; AP seconds; 5Y/0N/0A

**Valley View Gate**

* WP removed gate and stored out of sight; bear “vandalism” on fence post

**Bylaws**

* Committee reviewed bylaws

**Adjourned**

8:28 pm