

# Andrews Community Forest Management Committee

## Minutes of April 29, 2019

**Present:** Geoffrey Urbanik, Chair; Wright Preston, Vice Chair; Marcy Harding; Cecelia Danks; Ellen Kraft; Tyler Merritt; Jim Monahan

Chair Urbanik called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

### A. By Law amendments review

This discussion was deferred due to being incomplete.

### B. Trail Design

Tyler Merritt spoke about the two quotes for trail work from Sinuosity and Sustainable Trailworks. They were both informal quotes but were used to inform the committee of likely costs associated with trail design and mapping. No trail construction was included in the cost quotes. There was other discussion on which trails to design first.

Ellen Kraft asked about procedures to get trails approved, especially through the easement holders. Discussion informed the committee that design that avoided ecologically sensitive areas but accessed certain natural features should be the goal. Prior to any construction, easement holders could be consulted.

Cecelia Danks asked if there were grants that could fund part of this, or construction. Geoff Urbanik said that the Conservation Reserve Fund might be one source of funding to supplement the Andrews Forest Fund, as that is more of an endowment and should not all be spent. Tyler Merritt also suggested RiseVT may have some funding.

Wright Preston urged the committee to get started on the lower trail. There was some discussion on how to proceed. Jim Monaghan had provided an estimate for purchase of supplies to build a footbridge. The committee agreed to bring this to the Selectboard for approval.

### C. Maplewind Lease Review

This item was deferred due to being incomplete

### D. Management Plan Updates

While several committee members had provided input, this had not been prepared for final review.

### E. Trail Camera Purchases

Ellen Kraft noted she had purchased two trail cameras and accessories for \$281.72. This was to be used for educational purposes and aid in mapping sensitive habitat areas. The committee agreed to request reimbursement from the Town, but that in the future committee member purchases should be pre-approved by the ACF committee.

#### F. Reports and old business follow up

Wright noted we still needed to get development approval to expand the parking lot, which was necessary in order to allow a school bus to turn around. It was noted that the committee recently was denied a grant due to lack of signage at the road warning traffic of the entrance. The Committee agreed to request signage from the Selectboard. Volunteers were needed to begin the lower connector trail, and use of VYCC trail builders was discussed for a variety of other small projects. Outdoor Gear Exchange had a grant opportunity in September/October that the committee would look out for. The next meeting would be on May 20<sup>th</sup> due to May 27<sup>th</sup> being a holiday.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.