

Andrews Community Forest Management Committee

Minutes of October 28, 2019

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

Others Present: Ethan Tapper, Chittenden County Forester; Jack Linn; Caitlin Littlefield; Judy Rosovsky; Bob Lajoie

Chair Urbanik called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

A. Approval of Minutes of September 23, 2019

Wright Preston offered a motion to approve the minutes of September 23, 2019 and was seconded by Jim Monahan. The motion carried 8-0.

B. Forest Management Plan Public Hearing – Ethan Tapper, Chittenden County Forester

Ethan Tapper provided a presentation on the Forest Management Plan he developed for the Andrews Community Forest. This plan satisfied condition 1c of the Conservation Easement from the Vermont Land Trust.

The presentation focused on the health of the forest, the variety of growth stages of different sections of the forest, the choices to be made on how to manage the forest including selective harvesting or allowing the forest to mature without intervention. Mr. Tapper thoroughly explained the condition of different forest stands and how he would manage them.

The committeemembers and some members of the public asked questions, and Mr. Tapper responded. Ellen Kraft offered a motion to recommend passage of this Forest Management Plan to the Richmond Selectboard and was seconded by Marcy Harding. The motion carried 8-0.

Mr. Tapper requested that input be provided to him, or to the committee chair. The Selectboard would be asked to approve the Forest Management Plan on November 18th. He felt he already obtained VLT approval.

C. Recreational Trails Grant Program: Rob Peterson had spoken with one of his colleagues regarding this grant. The committee, mostly by Guy Roberts, had applied for this grant last year but was turned down due to some concerns by VTrans about access and signage. Mr. Peterson explained that this grant was significant and required a lot of effort from Richmond, and wanted everyone to understand what was involved. The chair explained he had not time to file the pre-application and after discussion, the committee decided that they were not prepared to file for 2019, and would perhaps develop a broader proposal for 2020 where extensive trail planning and permitting would be included.

- D. Tyler Merritt and Jim Monahan talked about their walk through with VLT on this parcel, and received an email back from Allaire Diamond certifying that this revised lower trail location was acceptable under VLT's easement. It was discussed and agreed that Jim Monahan would continue to work on a draft RFP to get the lower trail designed and constructed, and the larger trail network RFP would be issued next year sometime. The committee chair would inform the Selectboard of this.
- E. CHMS Project Discussion: Peter Halvorsen had volunteered to develop some projects in response to a request by CHMS teachers for hands-on learning. Mr. Halvorsen spoke about planting apple trees, invasive species management and some other projects that middle school aged children could participate in. The committee agreed that Mr. Halvorsen should move these forward as possible items with the teachers.
- F. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.