

Andrews Community Forest Management Committee

Minutes of August 26, 2019

Present: Geoffrey Urbanik, Chair; Wright Preston, Vice Chair; Marcy Harding; Ellen Kraft; Tyler Merritt; Rob Peterson; Jim Monaghan

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

A. Approval of Minutes

Wright Preston offered a motion to approve the minutes of May 20, 2019 and June 24, 2019. Marcy Harding seconded, noting that in the June 24th minutes she abstained from the vote on the March 25th minutes. The motion carried 6-0-1.

B. ADA Trail Discussion

Chair Urbanik explained that there were proposed federal regulations that would apply Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards on all trails open to the public. Right now such regulations only applied to federal facilities, or facilities improved with federal funding. Rob Peterson discussed some of his experiences with State Parks and ADA trails. The group discussed possibilities for constructing an ADA accessible trail at the Andrews Forest, as well as the difficulties in meeting the proposed standards. It was recognized that exemptions were possible. It was suggested that ADA standards be considered in upcoming trail designs, but there was no guidance on whether all trails must have ADA features or if only some of them would need to comply. These proposed regulations would be an ongoing consideration.

C. Forest Management Plan Review

The groups discussed Ethan Tapper's Forest Management Plan. Cecelia Danks and Wright Preston had submitted some comments. Tyler added some as well. In lights of some trails, active management of the forest should take trail work in consideration, as well as the proposed schedule for forest management. It was decided to hold an on-site meeting to understand these impacts, prior to the next regular session.

D. Trail Planning

Recently, members of the trails committee, led by Jim Monaghan, had built the crossover path and installed the footbridge. Pictures were provided and signs would be installed provided by Jim's students.

A special meeting on site would be held to site the next trail, and Adam Piper of VLT and Ethan Tapper would be invited to review the issue also and talk about active forest management in this area. September 8th at 3pm.

E. Maplewind Lease

Chair Urbanik noted he had made several changes to the draft document but the meadow sketch was not complete. It was not known whether Maplewind intended to use the fields this year or not.

F. Reports: Chair Urbanik noted he had weed trimmed at the kiosk, and attempted to spray hornets nested inside. Wright Preston said he would brush hog the normal roads. The groups submitted ethics policy acknowledgements as they were applicable. VELCO was beginning some work on their easement as was expected.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.