

Andrews Community Forest

Monday, August 31, 2020

Present, via Zoom meeting: Cecilia Dank, Ellen Kraft, Caitlin Littlefield, Tyler Merritt, Jim Monahan, Amy Power, Wright Preston (chair), Nick Neverisky

Members of the public present : Brad Elliott, Ethan Tapper County Forester, Jesse Crary

Minute taker: Wright Preston

The 7PM meeting started around 7:15 due to technical issues.

Welcome by Wright.

Public Comment. There was no public comment.

Ethan Tapper gave the committee and the public and update on the upcoming logging job on the eastern portion of the property. Tim Brown of Hinesburg is set to start logging in mid-September. Tim will provide proof of insurance. Some trees are already marked by Ethan and the skid roads are flagged. Ethan will have upcoming VT Fish and Wildlife and VT Urban Forestry zoom talks, some featuring the ACF.

We had good conversation about requesting of the Selectboard that the logging proceeds generated from this logging job be placed in the Andrews Community Forest fund account already in place in the Town. During an earlier meeting of the Selectboard, certain member(s) of the Selectboard wanted logging funds to go in the general fund and then voter budgeted funds for ACF could be made available. It is the committee's desire that the logging proceeds (perhaps \$15K to \$25K) would go into the dedicated ACF fund. This fund can be best used as a matching fund source for trail design and work, invasive species work and other ACF projects.

We talked about the importance of safety and trail direction signs for the upcoming logging job. The utility road will be used by the logger's trucks and by the pedestrians and hunters heading into the ACF. We agreed to help with sign design and placement.

We then discussed the two applicants for the one opening on the ACF committee. The town received two written applications for the committee from Jesse Crary and Neil Renner. Jesse was on the Zoom meeting call with us. We agreed both applicants would be valuable additions to the committee. Tyler made the motion to recommend Jesse for our committee and that motion was seconded by Jim. The committee voted unanimously to recommend to the Selectboard that they appoint Jesse to the ACF committee. (Note. The SB unimously appointed Jesse to the committee at its 9/1 meeting.)

Jim updated the committee on the completion of the new trail that is parallel and just east of the utility road. A week or so earlier, there was a well-organized 20-person work party to undertake and complete the new trail. This trail will help keep walkers / hikers from meeting log trucks on the utility road.

We reviewed the newly completed trail on the lower western side of the property. Its very well laid out and well-constructed. The committee will be installing a PT wood modest step system on the ledge just west of the parking lot.

We briefly discussed the need for trail naming and trail signs.

Lastly, we talked about preparing an RFP or RFPs for the trail system design and environmental review for upper sections of the ACF, based on the conceptual trail map and discussed contained the approved management plan. After good discussion we agreed to hold a special meeting of the ACF committee on Monday, 9/14 from 7PM to 8PM to further discuss this topic and vote on the RFP matter. Caitlyn agreed to draft a detailed RFP.

The meeting concluded at about 9:10pm.

Respectfully submitted, Wright