Andrews Community Forest Committee

Regular Meeting

Minutes

January 31, 2022

7:00 to 9:00 PM

**A: Roll Call, Confirmation of Quorum and Appointment of minute taker (2 minutes)**

Committee:

* Jesse Crary
* Tyler Merritt
* Daniel Schmidt
* Caitlin Littlefield
* Amy Powers
* Cecilia Danks
* Ellen Kraft
* Nick Neverisky (taking minutes)

Public or other organizations:

* Alexis Lathem
* Robert Low
* Daniel Wolfson
* Nancy Zimmy
* Marcy Harding
* Denise Noble
* Jeanette Malone
* Brad Elliott
* Paul Hauf
* Chief Richard Menard (Chief of Missisquoi Abenaki Nation)
* Kit Emery
* Ray Desilets
* Connie van Eeghan
* Scott Silverstein (Richmond Racial Equity Committee)
* Rebecca Roman (VLT)

**B: Additions or Deletions to the Agenda (1 minute)**

No changes.

**C: Review and accept minutes of January 6, 2022 Meeting (1 minute)**

Minutes approved unanimously.

**D: Public Comment (5 minutes)**

No public comment.

**E: Confirmation of Daniel Schmidt Appointment to ACF Committee by Selectboard (1 min)**

Confirmed approval by the Selectboard.

**F: Approval of Indigenous Land Use Rights/Trail Naming Appendix to Management Plan (15 min)**

Scott Silverstein and Alexis Lathem reviewed the process that went into developing the draft land use agreement document.

Rebecca Roman reviewed the comments she made in the land acknowledgement agreement. Chief Menard commented on the document identifying provisions for “tribal citizens” vs. people with “indigenous ancestry.”

Discussion re: the document identifying provisions for “tribal citizens” vs. people with “indigenous ancestry.” The document will use “indigenous ancestry” throughout except for when making provision for commercial harvest which will use the term “tribal citizens.” Chief Menard discussed challenges at other locations related to people who were not tribal citizens.

Revised document re: harvesting for commercial purposes from requiring “permission” from the ACF committee to requiring the harvester to provide “notice to” the committee.

Changes “establishment” of rights to “reaffirming” of these rights to reflect that these rights should exist regardless of Richmond’s management of the forest.

Discussion of the term “stolen.” Various proposals, “taken without consent” was put forward as a replacement, was supported by Chief Menard, commented on by the public, and adopted as an edit.

Various edits in the introductory paragraph.

Cecila moves to approve the document with edits discussed, Tyler seconds, all members vote to approve.

**G: Update on Status of Arrowwood/Sinuosity Trail Design Report (5 min)**

Caitlin gave an update. The committee has reengaged Arrowood/Sinuosity to help respond to concerns raised by community members, asking them to weigh in on pros and cons of trail revisions, especially related to revising total mileage and the three trails in the NE quadrant, and to comment on the time constraints of the project which did not allow for a full-year assessment in which other ecologically notable areas may have been identified. We anticipate a response from Arrowwood/Sinuosity in February.

Brad Elliott asked if the comments would be publicly available. Jesse responded that comments from Arrowwood/Sinuosity would be posted on the ACF website.

**I: Consideration of Draft ACF Management Plan Revisions (80 min)**

Postponed until a later meeting due to time available in this meeting.

**I: Other and old business follow-up (10 Minutes)**

Wood For Good Update – Jim reports that many people who needed fuel wood received it.

Snowmobile use on ACF – Tyler reports snowmobile use on ACF. It appears to have come from the Valley View area and traveling primarily on the old VAST route and near the powerlines. Tyler reports seeing no snowmobile tracks coming from VYCC or Prelco land. Tyler did not explore as far up as the location of the former gate and cannot confirm that this is where the snowmobiles entered although he reports that is likely to area they came from judging from the direction of the tracks. The committee will reach out to members of the Valley View neighborhood about this and will post on Front Porch Forum about snowmobile use.

Form for Collection of Public Comment – The committee discussed using a web form to collect feedback on the management plan revisions. The comment form will include room for open-ended comments and check boxes to identify what section their comments refer to.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20pm