

Andrews Community Forest

Monday, February 15 2021 – 6pm – minutes

Present: Caitlin Littlefield, Tyler Merritt, Jim Monahan, Nick Neverisky, Wright Preston (chair)

Public: Peter Halvorson (Valley View neighborhood)

Appointed minute taker: CL

Amendments to the agenda: none

Public comment:

- Consider reserves to not be logged?

Logging update

Conditions good. Tim (logger) and son proceeding. Have noted some member of the public driving up and down landing road.

Early January vandalism – snow and sticks into gas cans; nothing mentioned by Tim when WP discussed with him today. Nothing since. Pete points out that means vandalism happened without ATVs.

Grooming winter trail

TM and JM met with VYCC; identifying potential route for grooming with snowdog

- Loop up to VAST trail thru VYCC onto VAST trail (currently functioning as skid trail for ~200m).
- Then into Maple Wind upper meadow – multiple loops up there.
- Then connect out gate that goes under powerline onto farm road to the south of where skidder has been going.
- Then up to log landing to get to Urbanik Way as well as across parking lot through lower meadow.

RMT groomers will bring chainsaw to clear some downed trees on VYCC. Small stream crossing on Bruce's land will require bridge. Will wait to groom til end of this storm cycle. Will flag, esp. along fences.

NN will post pics and map from TM and JM to Facebook and Front Porch Forum.

Mountain biking usage

Per mgmt plan, mountain bikes allowed on designated trails. Committee generally agrees that Urbanik Way and other trails we'll build are de facto designated trails for mountain bikes. But let's be clear about it so there isn't dispersed riding. These include:

Old VAST trail; utility roads; farm roads; Urbanik Way; Meandering Meadow

VYCC planning to open more trails to hikers and bikers. Will ultimately afford network connectivity. More parking capacity.

Trail design

Pete asks how ecological assessments are being considered in trail design. WP affirms that ecological trail design is a team of ecologists *and* a team of trail designers. Pete offers to map out deer yard areas. JM to share Arrowwood comment-able map with Pete

Gate

WP and Josh Arneson (town manager) attended recent DRB meeting regarding gate. Now committee to decide upon best gate options – relocate, redesign, etc. DRB did determine that a gate is part of fencing. Therefore, the gate can be placed on the boundary line (with no set back) just as fencing may be placed on boundary line. DRB needs to review and approve gate design and its impact on circulation.

VAST trail

Jesse's determination: if snowmobilers are using old VAST trail that's not being maintained by VAST, landowner (Richmond) does not receive benefit of VAST coverage. Committee may decide to not allow snowmobiles. That statement (and signage) may reduce liability exposure?

JM points out that forbidding snowmobilers would be inconsistent with what's in the management plan (unless we interpret management plan as allowing access only on VAST trails – and one could argue VAST trails don't currently exist).

Relatedly, there are a number of small items in the management plan (eg pre-dawn, post-dusk access) that are inconsistent with current and desired uses.

Adjourned

6:55pm