

Andrews Community Forest

Monday, June 22, 2020 – 7pm – minutes

Present: Cecilia Danks, Peter Halvorsen, Ellen Kraft, Caitlin Littlefield, Tyler Merritt, Jim Monahan, Rob Peterson, Amy Powers, Wright Preston

Public: *none present*

Appointed minute taker: Caitlin

Amendments to the agenda:

- 1) Delaying deer mapping conversation til later meeting

Reorganization:

- 1) Discussion re: chair, vice chair, and secretary
 - a. Motion by Rob for Wright to be chair for “introductory period” of 6 months, Ellen as vice chair, Caitlin as secretary. Jim seconded.
 - b. Unanimous vote in favor

Forester and TS contracts

- 1) Forester contract signed by Josh; awaiting signature by Ethan. Will go into effect July 1
- 2) Committee wants to have say in harvesting window (which we will discuss with forester), any additional skid trails (which forester will propose) particularly given interaction with future hiking/biking trails, equipment (which forester will propose), etc.
- 3) Ethan keen to move forward with this agreement soon.
- 4) Proposal that next meeting is walk in the woods with Ethan, if available to discuss these questions. Caitlin will ask about his availability.

Conditional Use Approval

- 1) Parking lot update from Pete
- 2) Original plan was approved by DRB
 - a. School bus parking space/turn-around ok
 - b. Additional 3 spaces towards upper end are approved
 - c. Did not approve variance to move closer to Rt. 2
- 3) Action items
 - a. Need VTrans to sign-off on permit for access (we currently have temporary, permanent access into the forest is pending approval)
 - b. Need zoning permit process to actually do the work.

- 4) Did get approval for outdoor recreation use

Invasives mapping

- 1) Effort to engage local school kids in invasive mapping cancelled due to pandemic
- 2) Pete, Ellen, Caitlin walked areas to map densities.
- 3) Notes
 - a. Did not cover entire forest, but happily, lower densities than expected
 - b. More on S-slope towards road
 - c. Japanese barberry and honeysuckle very early to leaf-out – very rapid identification
 - d. Multi-flora rose is currently in bloom – beautiful white flowers
 - e. 50-100 ft section of road above meadow infested with bittersweet. Starting to come up in meadow, too.
- 4) Pete used BioFinder to map densities
- 5) Pending UVM transportation, Cecelia's class may be able to do removal
- 6) We can use herbicides to control those spp for which it's best practices (per what's in the mgmt plan)
 - a. Seek contractor? Or seek Ethan, who is licensed? Would also avoid us having to write contract for additional contractor.

Maplewind Farm License

- 1) Rob updates on license.
- 2) Maple Winds Farm attorney (David Sunshine) seeks lease agreement in case of future ACF committee wanting to stop Maple Wind Farm access (e.g., after farm has made investments).
- 3) In general, committee opposed to leasing public land to private citizens/companies.
- 4) Rob has engaged Josh because this is a legal consideration not in the realm of a volunteer committee.

CRF and lower trail update

- 1) Jim updates on CRP approval of lower trail update.
- 2) SB approval as well.
- 3) Josh subsequently signed contract. Jim just shipped to Mountain Trail Worx.
- 4) We had specified in contract that trail should be done by July 1, but process has been much delayed.
 - a. Jim will discuss with Dana to determine realistic dates and we will amend contracts to reflect those changes.
- 5) Open question: does zoning administrator need to approve of trail before construction? Because this may count as "land development"

Pete's updating

- 1) Pete will be relinquishing the remainder of his term to Nick Neverisky for the future to take advantage of new adventures. He hopes to return in the future.

Meeting adjourned.