**--DRAFT--**

**Monday, April 26, 2021**

**Andrews Community Forest Committee**

**Committee Members Attending:** Wright Preston (chair), Nick Neverisky, Cecilia Danks, Tyler Merritt (notes), Caitlin Littlefield, Jim Monahan, Amy Powers, Jesse Crary, Ellen Kraft

**Public present:** Kevin Bessett, Ethan Tapper

**Committee Members Not Present:** All present

Zoom Meeting Online: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86954940406?pwd=MUhnUWZLL0pzekRzMW1GNGFPa1dDUT09 Join by Phone: +1 929 205 6099 Meeting ID: 869 5494 0406 Passcode: 164682

A: Appoint minute taker.

* Tyler taking notes
* Committee members will continue rotating minute taking
* Moving forward, Amy will host each Zoom meeting or will find a replacement

B: Review and accept committee minutes of 3-29-21 2 mins

March 29 minutes are here: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-uxQP4LayRJxNIptu9pQsTLfUfuxb7sZYCCrdiKeftA/edit>

* Approved by all

C: Public Comment 5 mins

No public comment outside of agenda

D: Committee member applications 5 mins

Discuss keeping Caitlin as a member of the ATFC from the Conservation Commission.

E: Next Chair 2 mins

Wright might not continue as chair after his year anniversary in the position.

F: Google Doc’s procedures 2 mins

Committee will use google docs to manage minutes and use it during our open meetings, but do not use it outside of meetings by more than a quorum. We cannot have non-public discussions through the google doc. 4 folks will have editing permission going forward. Amy, Caitlin, Nick, and Ellen will have editing permission. Cecilia made a motion to allow these 4 access. Jim 2nded it. Unanimous vote for allowing.

G: Trail improvement opportunity by VYCC 10 mins

VYCC has a “watershed crew” that is grant-funded. The crews use hand tools and do water quality work - water bars, tree plantings, etc…. According to Ethan the first section that needs work is the old farm road. the 2nd section is on the old VAST trail under power lines on western edge of the forest. 3rd is an old eroding logging road. It would be free to the committee. Tyler made a motion to support. Cecilia 2nded. Unanimous vote in support

H: Logging this summer 5 mins

Ethan explains that we are a bit in limbo about whether to close out the logging operation or keeping it open to finish it up in August. Tyler asked about where the last piece to be logged is and how stable the land would be through the summer months without doing closeout. Wood prices are up compared to last year. Wright supports finishing the logging. Tyler supports closing it out. Ethan thinks final harvest would bring in revenue for us in $3K. Cecilia leaning towards closing out operation. Ethan feels he can go either way. NIck asked about revenue after having to rebuild wet road Revenue would be negative or zero but would have very stable road for future. Tim could still cut trees for view from the log landing and could possibly take them. Jim makes a motion to have Tim close the job out and finish with the logging for now. Tyler 2nded motion. Cecilia questioned whether they would be in same area next time around (15-20 years). Ethan says they will be in same area. Ethan interprets Catilins broken up question! Did we create the conditions we wanted to create. “Sort of” is summary of answer. Nick observes perhaps long term good for short term minimal impact. Cecilia suggests closing out logging and then play “game of logging” to do final enhancements. Caitlin modifies motion to add a strategy for creative way to complete Ethan’s strategy of dropping the last trees. Unanimous vote in support of the motion.

We shipped the donated wood - 6 cords - to Wood For Good.

I: Cut hemlock logs at landing into boards; cost up to $800 2 mins

Got 2000 board feet of hemlock from the operation. Selectboard will need to weigh in but committee will discuss and vote. Jim makes a motion to approve no more than $800 to mill up the hemlock by Todd Liberty for wood to be used on ATCF projects in the future. Jim worked with Todd about figuring out optimal dimensions. Cecilia 2nded motion. Vote was unanimous in support.

Invasives - Ethan suggests a formation of an invasives sub-committee. Ethan would volunteer to help guide this committee. Amy, Ellen, and Cecilia are interested in joining this committee and Amy knows a community member to reach out to as well.

J: The Western Gate draft policy, then DRB approval 15 mins

Gate Subcommittee - Tyler, Nick, and Jesse - met with Mike, Kevin, and Peter from Valley View neighborhood to discuss the gate. Nick gives a summary of the meeting - Group decided metal gate doors will be removed. Posts will remain in place and we’ll add welcoming signage to the posts. Gates can be reinstalled on the posts if vehicular traffic is documented. The committee will set up parameters on when gates would be removed again after the issue has passed. Mike also indicated he wanted the committee’s commitment to move the posts if it possibly affects a future sale of the property. Wright took a previous summary of the meeting from Nick and sent it to the zoning board to confirm we are OK to keep the posts in place. Jesse opens discussion with some observations - the neighbors do not want the gates located remotely in the woods rather than removed from the area. Suggestions about protocol about gate reinstallation before actually installing gates. Cecelia asks if we need to go to DRB if we are going to be removing the gate. But Wright and Jesse both suggest we want the DRB backing for future issues. Wright does not want the gates removed too far from the posts. Tyler, Nick, and Ellen both support removing gates, keeping them nearby, but out of site of the trail and entrance posts. Jesse suggests further wording edits for the document we will present to the DRB. Kevin adds public comment about having the gates kept out of site. Jesse comments on the bullet points on when the committee can close the gate. A few of those were listed by Pete Halverson’s letter to the committee prior. Kevin suggested that another option is closing the lower gate in valley view under the power-line. Jim makes motion to support gate plan. Jessie seconds the motion. Wright supports keeping gate attached to posts is the better solution. Caitlin backs Wright and is disappointed that gates are being removed from posts. Valley group did not like having the gates on the posts as they have an imposing feel. It is aesthetically uninviting according to Kevin. The neighbors feel the gates are imposing. Vote for motion - Nick, Jessie, Amy, Jim, Cecilia, Caitlin, Tyler. Ellen abstains. Wright voted against.

K: Engage surveyor install four survey pins, cost $450. 6 mins

Wright discusses missing survey pins on the south east zone near the Maple Wind Farm land. Should we use ATF funds to support the survey. Cecilia makes a motion to ask selectboard to allow us access to $450 of ATF funds to complete this survey. Tyler 2nded. Unanimous vote in support

L: Update on trail design plan 10 mins

Jim reached out to the designers and ecologists. Work has continue. Over ½ of trail locations are flagged and are working through with ecologists. Tyler gave code for gate to Sinuosity to get up to log landing.

M: Possible trail linkages w ACF neighbors 5 mins

No comment

N: Other and old business follow-up 5 minutes

No comment