

Andrews Community Forest

Monday, May 30, 2023 – 6 pm – minutes -- Zoom

Present: Nick Neverisky (chair), Cecilia Danks, Caitlin Littlefield, Chase Rosenberg, Melissa Wolaver, Ian Stokes (membership pending confirmation by SB). Not present: Daniel Schmidt

Public: Jeanette Malone, Daniel Wolfson, Bob Lajoie, Nancy Zimny (remote), Brad Elliot (remote), Kit Emery (remote), Marcy Harding (remote)

A: Roll Call, confirmation of quorum and appointment of minute taker (2 minutes)

Appointed minute taker: CL

B: Additions or deletions to the agenda (1 minute)

None

C: Approval of May 15, 2023 minutes

No discussion of minutes; CL moves to approve; MW seconds; vote: 5Y

D: Bird walk with Ethan

CR: Considerable attendance; Ethan is great, enthusiastic guide; saw scarlet tanagers,

E: Committee Appointment

CR: Update from trails committee re: appointment – potential candidate who's also an ecologist is checking availability.

NN: SB decision-making tabled until June 5th.

F: Ongoing projects for sub-committees or individual task leads

- Donations we received in Geoff Urbanik's memory
- Social media
 - CL asks whether we need it or not; MW suggests FPF may be enough; CR points out we may need way to update regarding trail status
 - CD students in the past had created a Google page, which could be re-booted. Or alternative page in general. Should ask public what folks they get their info
 - MW will take the lead on this
- VELCO easement purchase
 - CL will take lead, will cc Nick
 - Need to put VELCO docs up on front page of ACF website
 - IS: one shouldn't need a Facebook account to access info; how to we make sure people are aware of the rules (to be discussed with Roadmap discussion next)
- Relationship w Maple Wind Farm
 - CR: significant erosion on road giving timing and type of tractor use reported by Ethan; Ethan perceived his rock work to be undone by tractor use
 - CL: could we ask Maple Wind if they'd use the improved road rather than the double track?

- CD: we used to put up signage when electric fence was electrified
- CR will take lead; MW will introduce
 - To nail down what relationship Maple Wind has with ACF
- Connections re: implementing the Indigenous part of the MP
 - CD will take lead. Considered returning names to the land by naming trails that way, bringing in Tribe as needed for that piece.
- Managing the kiosk
 - MW willing to take the lead
- Valley View entrance, as w VYCC, and at Sip of Sunshine once that happens
 - Need signage

G: Roadmap to move forward with MP

NN: identify key steps and put rough timeframe on them. Here's draft to work with:

1. Identify new input for mgmt plan integration (by end of June)
 - a. ID this during June mtg and form subcommittee that drafts it for July mtg, sent to ACFC for review and post to town webpage with at least 1 week prior to July mtg
 - b. Development of trail stewardship plan (to be embedded in MP; by end of June)
 - i. Including what count as designated trails
 - ii. CD suggest a subcommittee pursues this with other community reps (eg from RMT)
 - iii. CL and CR volunteer to take lead
2. Committee reviews and approves updated mgmt plan and trail stewardship plan (July and Aug mtg)
3. Cross-check against CE with ACFC (ongoing during step 2)
 - a. Providing specific references
 - b. Include formal review with VLT (invite VLT to share their feedback re: easement review during Sept mtg)
4. SB liaison cross-check of MP (by end of Sept)
5. Town attorney review of MP particularly re: compliance with zoning regulations etc (by end of Sept)
6. Integrate integration from steps, make a clean document for ACFC approval that it's ready to go out for public input (by end of Oct)
 - a. Subcommittees are working to clean up as new input comes in
 - b. Determine process for public input (if any)
7. TBD: Consider additional structured public comment period or accomplish that via SB mtg (by end of Nov)
 - a. CD suggests we need another in-person public input
 - b. CR suggests we may have sufficient info to move forward with advancing to SB
 - c. IS suggests we have sufficient fodder and we need to dig teeth in as a committee
 - d. MW thinks it may be premature to determine if we need additional public engagement
8. Finalize MP for SB submission (end of Dec)
9. Submit to SB (1st Jan mtg)
10. Publicized approved plan (3rd Jan mtg)

H: Public comment

- JM: seeking additional way for public to engage w large doc of MP; are there ways to have bite-sized pieces;

- CD: side-by-side comparison of what's changed; or maybe 1-pagers of what's been changed and/or what's new. Fastest ways to get where we want to get may be to slow down.
- CL: why didn't Friends engage ACFC in helping host Sue Morse's presentation on wildlife in ACF?
- BE: would VLT be able to receive others' feedback?
- CL: suggests we have VLT rep attends mtg
- MH: reiterate the CE is fundamental; NN's pwrpt during public engagement did not mention the CE. Thinks there are substantial changes that need to be made to MP to be aligned w CE. Questions whether Sinuosity and Arrowwood actual read CE.

Meeting adjourned