

**Andrews Community Forest Committee**

**Regular Meeting**

**Agenda**

**June 26, 2023**

**6:00 to 8:00 PM**

**Richmond Town Center Meeting Conf. Room C, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor – 203 Bridge Street, Richmond, VT**

Present: Chase Rosenberg, Ian Stokes, Cecilia Danks, Caitlin Littlefield, Nick Neverisky, Melissa Wolaver.

Absent: Daniel Schmidt, Julian Portilla

Public: Paul Hauf, Robert Lajoie, Kit Emery, Dan Wolfson, Jeanette Malone, Jack Linn, Brad Elliott.

Zoom: Mary Harding and Nancy Zimney,

- A. Roll call, confirmation of quorum, appointment of minute taker (2 minutes) MW will take minutes.
- B. Additions or deletions to the agenda (1 minute)
- C. Review and accept minutes of previous meeting (1 minute) Change to the minutes: MW volunteered to be point person for Kiosk signage and Urbanik memorial; not social media presence. Chase moves and Ian seconds.
- D. Discuss meeting structure (time keeping, public comment approach) (10 minutes) CR: Agenda with allotted times for public comment for each item, or items that warrant comment time when we plan agenda. We will try using a timekeeper. CR: volunteers to be timekeeper today.
- E. Public comment – opening (5 minutes) CR: End of each topic could occupy too much time: Ian: Public should email their comments after the fact so that minute taker can access them for minutes. CD: Important for some topics to have opportunity for public comment as we discuss them. Reallocate end comment time to other slots. Decided: Shifting to open comment period and then selectively located throughout the agenda. Brad Elliot: Likes this idea for better dialog.  
  
Dan Wolfson: Will there be discussion of comments from Melissa Levy Report? Yes, Item H., Item I on agenda.
- F. Update re: Trails Committee member appointment (5 minutes). Paul Hauf was recommended by the Trails Committee as potential ACFC member. Per Duncan: Trails/Conservation appointees go directly to Selectboard for approval. Ian Stokes asks about Paul's letter of application. NN: Paul's letter will be forwarded to Josh for Selectboard.
- G. VOREC funding opportunity (5 minutes) CD: Mad River Valley got one of these grants and is using it for visioning. Can be used for various items that we will be working on. We should apply as soon as it is open. CL: We need a repository for all the items we could use this grant for education, pilot monitoring, etc. Put on next agenda for timeline update. Have Ian's publicly available? Could also list as old business on agenda and could just be revisiting. It would be the town that would be the applicant. Trails and Conservation commission possibly

involved as well. Jeanette: Dan and Jeanette attended Mad River series. Very collaborative with representatives from both conservation and trails. Mooretown Waitsfield and Fayston.

H. Generate a list of topic areas for potential inclusion in management plan updates and trail stewardship plan (20 minutes)

TSP = Caitlin, Chase, Paul (after Selectboard appointment)

CMP = Julian, Ian, Melissa

- Pedestrian only trail(s) (related to wildlife) - TSP
- Seasonal trail closures (related to wildlife) - TSP
- Monitoring impact of human presence in forest – TSP, CMP
- Add description of trail-based recreation / wildlife / ecology research / design integration + something related benefits of outdoor recreation and nature exposure - CMP
- Alignment with conservation easement - CMP
- Dogs (related to wildlife) – TSP, CMP
- Horses (related to wildlife) - TSP
- Include references when reasonable and helpful - CMP
- Clarity (signage?) at property boundaries with trails / establish liaison with adjacent owners - CMP
- Invasive species management – TSP (maybe CMP)
- Trail use policy enforcement - TSP
- Existing roads and trails – Close? Treat as trails? Etc. - TSP
- Trail maintenance - TSP
- Ebikes or other motorized travel - TSP
- Designate specific activities allowed on each trail - TSP
- Events/permitting - CMP
- Education re: land and original people recognition – CMP (maybe TSP re: trail signage, interpretation, etc.)
- Trail route: potential modifications, document reason for routing (related to wildlife, discuss buffers) – TSP including the trail map etc.
- Allowance of future trails / designating no-trail zones (related to wildlife) / Expanding trails currently proposed beyond proposed route in the future – TSP, CMP
- Request for more trails than currently proposed - CMP
- Role of ACF within larger landscape of recreation and habitat - CMP
- Language adjustments in management plan - CMP
- Alignment with town plan/zoning regulations - CMP
- Night use – CMP, TSP
- Parking – CMP, TSP
- Plan naming (e.g, comprehensive management plan) - CMP
- Structural revision to plan to make easier to read - CMP
- Phased trail development – TSP

- Decide if/how to integrate each topic area into management and trail stewardship plans; subcommittees tasked with drafting updates (55 minutes). Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) and Trail Management Plan groupings. We identified whether each item was Comprehensive Management Plan or Trail Stewardship Plan or Both. Split committee into two sub-committees which can do their own tasking. Each subcommittee will develop recommended edits and share them with the committee one week prior to our next meeting. They will also be posted to website. Cecelia will read thru both for Indigenous content. Trails Stewardship will be Caitlin Littlefield, Paul Hauf (though has not yet been appointed to AFCC by Selectboard) and Chase Rosenberg. CMP: Julian Portillo , Ian Stokes, Melissa Wolaver.

Comments: Nancy Zimney: Trail based recreation effects and zones of influence. – relates to several items on list. Cumulative effects? Section in Comprehensive management plan definition. Paul Hauf: Add benefits outdoor recreation and nature exposure. Marcy Harding: Is the trail route open for additional revision? Yes, we will address, and we are in the process of refining the route. Jack Linn: Invasives. Brad Elliot: Buffer recommendations: How relevant, adequate. Dan Wolfson: Meredith McNaughton report – look at it as an action item, esp. three step process and flow path. Western connection to town via Valley View. Lots of comments about SOS connection and how it will affect habitat and connectivity. Jeanette Malone: Clarifying trail agreement use with adjacent landowners. CD: Adding references and resources in plan.

- I. Public comment – closing (5 minutes). Moved up
- J. Scheduling next ACFC Meeting (5 minutes). Monday, July 31 6 pm.