ACF Meeting Minutes- 01/06/2022

Attendees, all via Zoom:

PUBLIC: Joy Reap- Planning Commission, Daniel Wolfson, Robert Low, Brad Elliott, Jeanette Malone, Marcy Harding

COMMITTEE MEMBERS present

Ceclia Danks, Typer Merritt, Nick Neverisky, Ellen Kraft, AmyPowers, Jesse Crary

(note: Jesse and Caitlin both arrived within 30 min of meeting starting)

Notetaking: Mostly Ellen Kraft, then Amy at the end

**Committee approved the meeting minutes from 11/29/21 (double check this date)**

**New Committee Member as liaison to the Conservation Commission**

Introduction to Daniel Schmidt! Welcome~!

Amy Powers makes motion to approve Daniel as a member of the Committee > all approve / in favor

He will be formally appointed to the committee January 18 at the next Selectborad meeting.

Joy Reap from Planning Commission-

Town plan set a lot of goals and Joy is here to help us follow through on the towns goals

1. Are we good with staffing? (yes)
2. How are the trails going?

Tyler Merritt brings roughly up to speed on where we are at- any new trail design requires a revision of the management plan NN suggests we have moved “too fast” and could have engaged the public differently in the trail design and very diplomatically stated that they are very passionate reasons for different opinions.

JR: suggests if we did the community work, to stick with our work / decision and present it to the SB

**Scott Silverstein- Indegenious Land Use Rights Document discussion**

Part 1 and 2 good- no significant changes

Part 3- change wording to include at least one large citizen seats on committee be given to Abanaki if any apply for the position even if not a resident

Abanecki Consultant when revising the MP or other major actions involving the forest?

Cecelia propose a subcommittee to re-work this wording~

Cecilia, Jessie and Scott > deadline next thursday to revise this paragraph and get it out :-)

Part 4 - Discussion of signs and artwork etc. Appreciation of this section.

Special note from Scott, for our information:

Nulhegan (Chief Don Stevens) vs. Missisquoi (Richard Minnard) are in discussions about and unclear whose territory Richmond is.

Both will be invited to the next meeting where we plan to adopt this document.

The language in the document does not need to change because of this.

**Update on Arrowwood and Sinuosity:**

Jim and Catlin did reach out to both and both are willing to re-engage about the upper NE quadrant. Willing to come to the SB meeting.

Brad E- asks did you limit the consultants to figuring out the impact of deleting one vs. two vs. three trails? Caitilin read out loud the letter that was written to them which asked them to give us pro’s and con’s to reducing the mileage in the NE quadrant.

\*\*Will be given documents to review for the next meeting\*\*

How to move forward:

Tyler- we already voted to approve the plan- so let's just go to the SB

Cecelia- preference to revisit and put in a different trail plan with public input.

Caitlin- don’t want to send something to SB that would just get kicked back bc too contentious- wants to wait and see what Arrowwood and Sinuosity.

E suggests asking them to be present at the public engagement process.

*They weren’t asked of this… only to comment in writing and at the SB*

Jessie- would like to see what Arrowwood and Sinuosity propose, have a unified vote/ stance that we present to the public and then submit with the entire management plan for public comment- we gather the public comments and then submit to the SB….

Marcy Harding- ask Arrowwood and Sinuosity to just follow the MP-

*The MP wasn’t boots on the ground trued -*

(Amy P. takes over Ellen’s note taking mid discussion)

To address questions of the community who have concerns, let’s ask the consultants to specifically address particular concerns…i.e.,why NOT they couldn’t follow the original MP and concept mpa… their answer may be helpful for the community.

Specifically: Ask Arrowwood: why did you depart from the line that was drawn on the concept map? Specifically why the trail in the northeast instead of northwest…Why does the trail not go up through the northwest and all cut through the NE?

Caitlin: reminding us that this is frustrating but often deliberating through the process of town politics may be the shortest route even if it feels long

Goal: our committee can hopefully come to consensus prior to the selectboard meeting

We won't make a firm decision on the process until we have the opportunity to analyze what Arrowwood gets back to us. And that may guide how we direct the rest of the process.

**Revision to the Management Plan**

* Ellen did some editing work in the fall but would like to have someone else help with this. Focused on grammar edits.
* Caitlin: Where are all our revision ideas? Proposed edits?
* Ellen: I incorporated all of that. Rewording, details. I know I did it with track changes. (Cecilia asks to leave markup in so we can see what changed.)
* Nick: Ellen can you send us the document with revisions so that we all read and see what’s needed.
* Tyler: Let's go over the whole thing as a group at the end of February meeting. Just comb through it together.
* Do as much advance work as possible beforehand.
* Ellen will send the document around and After we vote on the Abenaki part and we approve it in January, Cecilia will put it in before the February meeting.

**Form for collection of public comment**

* we don’t know what process yet. We do think we’ll circulate a request for written comment on the revised MP…so we need a couple people to take the lead on how to structure that process.
* See how the planning commission or selectboard does this already.
* Nick will ask Josh this to start.
* Backup plan: set up a google form.
* Brad Elliott suggests that we may not get good discussion and things are too easily dismissed without an in person public forum.

**Next Meetings**

* Next regular meeting: Last Monday Jan. 31
* February meeting is during local school’s spring break so may need to be rescheduled.
* Wood for Good Follow up
* Closing up the logging job, with Ethan at the next meeting