

# Andrews Community Forest Management Committee

## Minutes of November 25, 2019

**Present:** Geoffrey Urbanik; Cecelia Danks; Marcy Harding; Jim Monahan; Rob Peterson; Wright Preston

Chair Urbanik called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

A. Approval of Minutes of October 28, 2019

Jim Monahan offered a motion to approve the minutes of October 28, 2019 and was seconded by Marcy Harding. The motion carried 6-0.

B. Update from November 18<sup>th</sup> Selectboard Meeting

Chair Urbanik explained that Ethan Tapper presented the Forest Management Plan to the Selectboard on November 18<sup>th</sup>, and the Selectboard approved the plan. There was no significant comment from the public at that time. Ethan Tapper collected signatures, and had previously obtained Vermont Land Trust approval of the plan. Mr. Urbanik also explained to the Selectboard that the ACF Committee had plans for an RFP for the lower trail as well as the larger site plan requiring approval, which were objectives for the coming year.

C. Committee Membership Concerns: Chair Urbanik explained that according to the ACF Committee by-laws, two members were recommended by the Conservation Commission but one of those was reserved for a sitting Conservation Commission member. Guy Roberts had been the Conservation Commission member on the ACF Committee, but this was overlooked when Peter Halvorsen was nominated to fill Guy's vacancy following his resignation. Therefore, the Conservation Commission was owed a spot on the ACF Committee but there were no openings. The Committee needed to discuss how to handle this.

The committee discussed possible ways to mitigate the issue, however, the bylaws required the Conservation Commission to have one of their membership on the ACF Committee. Ultimately, Marcy Harding offered to resign, citing a desire to spend more time with family and the fact that she originally wanted to serve for one year, and the 12-month anniversary was not far away. The Chair noted that the one-year terms would actually go through May of next year, which was the Town's normal appointment schedule. However, Ms. Harding said that with the holidays and the lack of a December meeting it made sense for her. The committee initially objected to this course of action, but seeing how Ms. Harding was comfortable with this solution and not feeling forced into it, they agreed. A motion to accept Ms. Harding's resignation effective December 1, 2019 was made by Wright Preston and seconded by Rob Peterson, and the motion carried 6-0. The committee thanked Ms. Harding for her work and would miss her, however, as a member of the public she was welcome to attend the meetings.

D. Lower Trail Development RFP Discussion: Jim Monahan shared the updated RFP he had been working on for the lower trail. He felt that the costs of the design and installation could be

covered by either a RiseVT grant or something similar, with maybe matching funds from the Andrews account. Allaire Diamond from VLT had walked with proposed route with Tyler Merritt and signed off that the layout was acceptable. All that was left was fine-tuning the RFP, issuing it and finding funding. Some corrections were noted, and the Manager noted that the Selectboard needed to approve of the issuance of the RFP. This could be done in December.

The Committee agreed to keep moving forward and issue the RFP soon so it would be awarded over the Winter in order to get trail work completed in the Spring.

- E. CHMS Project Discussion: The Chair explained that Peter Halvorsen provided an update that the projects he had proposed for the middle school class were still being developed, and he was set to speak with them on December 6<sup>th</sup>.

The committee agreed there would be no December meeting due to the holiday schedule.

- F. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.