

Andrews Community Forest Management Committee

Minutes of February 25, 2019

Present: Geoffrey Urbanik, Chair; Wright Preston, Vice-Chair; Cecelia Danks; Rob Peterson; Ellen Kraft; Marcy Harding; Tyler Merritt

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

Secretary and Minutes: Mr. Urbanik explained that at the last meeting the committee wished to wait for additional members to attend before choosing a secretary, whose primary responsibility was to take minutes. Mr. Urbanik suggested a rotating assignment of the membership for minutes, and he would take the minutes for tonight. It was noted that Town Planner Jessica Draper completed the minutes from January.

By-law amendment review: There was some confusion over the status of the proposed by-laws and amendments from the last meeting. Jessica Draper may or may not have made Guy Roberts' changes. Ellen Kraft mentioned some changes she would like made to the by-laws, but the committee agreed that this should be taken up again at the next meeting.

Complete trail and signage between lower farm road and main access road: Mr. Preston explained that the neighboring property owner, who owned the old Andrews farmhouse, was concerned about people walking through his driveway and yard. A gate had been installed at the rear of the property where the farm road crosses into the forest property, and a trail was proposed to connect this area to the main forest access road. This trail was marked but not improved and some signage is needed. Mr. Preston also brought up a possible lease agreement with Maplewind Farm for use of the upper fields for cattle grazing, which was active under the former owners.

The committee discussed this issue and it was agreed that the Trails Committee would be asked to help formulate a plan to construct this trail, which may take some time. Rob Peterson and Geoff Urbanik would work on a lease draft for Maplewind Farm.

RiseVT Code at Kiosk: Mr. Urbanik explained that he had been contacted by RiseVT liaison Robin Katrick about placing a special code on the kiosk at the forest. RiseVT promoted healthy lifestyles and this was a way for people to interact with a public recreation facility. It was not clear what the program was, but the committee agreed that the kiosk code could be installed when the weather was warmer.

Grants: Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions 2019 Tiny Grant: The committee indicated a willingness to apply for this grant but more research was needed on what qualified. The due date was early April.

Future Agendas: Approval of prior minutes; By-law amendments; Lease proposal for Maplewind Farms; Management Plan content and formatting; Tiny Grant; How to plan for trails, trash receptacles, removal of camp debris, extension of parking lot.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.