

# Andrews Community Forest Management Committee

## Minutes of March 25, 2019

**Present:** Geoffrey Urbanik, Chair; Cecelia Danks; Rob Peterson; Ellen Kraft; Tyler Merritt; Jim Monahan

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

### A. By Law amendments review

Tabled until whole committee has a copy of the updates completed by Jessica Draper, with suggestions from Ellen Kraft.

### B. Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions 2019 Tiny Grant

- a. Decided to pursue grant for trail work on the lower connector trail, to include bridge and two gates.
- b. Grant asks for matching, and we have the stewardship endowment as well as labor for matching if budget exceeds.
- c. Jim will draft grant.
- d. Richmond Conservation Commission will officially submit it – if they are paid up members
- e. Geoff will let Jim know if Richmond is a member of AVCC and he should go ahead with it. Judy R. says that Richmond is not a member of AVCC.

### C. Teagan Low – Tree Hero Nomination

- a. Geoff will submit the nomination.
- b. Cecilia sent the description and link to nomination form to Geoff.

### D. Maplewind Farm Lease review

- a. Committee agreed that a minimal payment (\$1?) and perhaps in-kind help (with things like gate post installation) would be appropriate.
- b. Geoff will ask Wright to talk with Maplewind about what seems appropriate.

E. Management Plan Updates

- a. Ellen made an expanded table of contents to the management plan PDF that specified the different reports in the Appendix.
- b. It is still desirable to separate the document entirely, but this is a good start.

F. RLT Pot Luck Invite: Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup> 5-8PM at Cochran's

- a. Several committee members will attend for various organizations.
- b. Geoff will present briefly on the Town Forest.

G. Reports and old business follow-up

- a. The snowshoe Saturday was a success! Beautiful day, saw 2 deer, 14 people showed up.
- b. Tyler presented discussion of the Trails Committee about priorities and a map of proposed phases for trail development.
  - i. Phase 1 is trail north from powerline/VAST on the west side of the property to connect with Sunshine property. Also, the short connector trail diverting trail users from the farm road to the GMP access road to complete the lower loop.
  - ii. Phase 2 is the trail in the middle of the property connecting phase 1 trail with farm road.
  - iii. Phase 3 would be the trails below the powerline, which are likely more difficult to build.
- c. The committee discussed options for planning and building out the trail network. The FN reports offer good ecological information beyond what is in the SE report. The trail concept approved in the management plan includes having ecological assessment of proposed trail with a goal of having an ecologist work with trail planners. The committee discussed the options for volunteer, professional and mixed approaches to designing and building out the trails. Tyler will reach out to get some estimates.
- d. What happened to the recreation trail building grant the Guy wrote? Rob will follow up with Josh.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.