Meeting Minutes

Andrews Community Forest Committee

**Special Meeting Minutes**

 June 16, 2021

7:00 PM to 8:00

Attendees:

From ACFC: Jesse Crary, Jim Monahan, Caitlin Littlefield, Nick Neverisky, Amy Powers, Cecilia Danks, Wright Preston

From Public: Judy Rosovsky, Brad Elliot, Max Krieger

A: Appoint a minute taker:

 Jim Monahan

B: Public comment:

Judy R commented about the excellent effort and work that the ACFC has done with working with Arrowwood & Sinuosity throughout this process. She wanted to make sure that the process was within the scope of the Management Plan. She said she approved of the plan that was presented. She did also recommend a mid-point review would have been helpful as some questions/concerns that arise can be dealt with along the way. She stated it would be a built-in review system. She stated that when present plan to add the follow justifications:

1. Concept vs. trail map presented
2. Buffer (200ft vs NH 400ft buffer)
3. Density (why 3 trails in NE quadrant running parallel)
4. Mileage - with respect to VAST trail

Max K was very happy with the plan and that there was an ecological balance between protecting the resource and having recreational trails. He supported the plan because it was done as a combo plan with both an ecologist and trail designer. He asked what is the process now moving forward?

Brad E liked the dual approach to this process and has great respect for Dori & Aaron at Arrowwood, but did not feel as though the plan followed the concept map that was originated and that a 200’ buffer was not adhered to on all the trails. He felt there was an unnecessary density of trails. He stated the density was too high above the power lines. He brought up the NH guidelines that are used in trail development and wanted to know why this was not used (400ft buffer). He asked a question of Aaron during a public walk but did not understand his answer.

C: Discuss and vote to support the ACF Ecological Trail Design Project Report prepared by Arrowwood & Sinuosity

(Report can be found : <https://arrowwoodvt.com/acf> and hard copy of the report can be found at the Town Clerk’s Office )

Caitlin L stated that the trail density is OK with the trail management plan and conforms to what was asked of the designers, but does want to hear about the concept map and how this was used to develop the current plan.

Cecilia D - Arrowwood/Sinuosity did a great job. She stated that there map had more trails in N. E. Section which is similar to what was asked on the RFP.

Jim M asked about the original concept map in terms of how it was laid out and if it was done by walking the land or just using topo lines. He felt that the Arrowwood/Sinuosity map was much more accurate with regards to ecological aspects and actual reality of building a trail. Cecilia stated that it was based off topo lines and not with boots on the ground.

Nick N stated that with having the cluster of trails in the NE quadrant it leaves the NW quadrant untouched and open to wild life.

Wright suggested that we hired Architects to design a home and now we are the home builder to make adjustments/improvements. He stated he wants to add VAST trail mileage because of corridor connections to Valley View. He suggested reducing the 3 trails that run parallel to only 1 trail that would connect with Sip of Sunshine.

Amy P. wanted to know how Arrowwood & Sinuosity would respond to some of the questions that have come up in this meeting. Wright stated that they thought Arrowwood/Sinuosity would say that they were Constrained by large Ravine (run North/South) and topography of the property is difficult. Caitlin stated that they definitely wanted to steer clear of Vernal Pool in North section, which she was grateful for.

Jesse stated also that he thought that they strayed from Concept Map due to topography and the need to cross Ravine at some point (was done down low). He suggested a follow up to Arrowwood/Sinuosity regarding some of the concerns that have come up. The trails subcommittee will draft an email asking them to address those concerns.

Jesse also asked for clarification on what is actually involved to revise the concept map in the management plan.

H: Other and old business follow-up

None - will email regarding next meeting to follow up on trail design

Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm