

ACFC Rules Document Proposal

Submitted for Selectboard Discussion

Background

ACFC is working to finalize the town forest management plan, with completion anticipated in the near term. In parallel, the committee has identified a practical question about how visitor-facing rules for the forest should be structured and maintained.

The current management plan governs all aspects of forest use and must be updated at minimum every ten years, with any revisions requiring approval from both the Selectboard and the Vermont Land Trust (VLT). ACFC is exploring whether a separate, standalone rules document would be a useful and appropriate complement to the management plan. The document would be aimed at educating visitors about permitted uses, seasonal closures, and access guidelines, and be posted both at the kiosk and online.

The intent is to keep the management plan focused on broader stewardship goals, trail standards, and committee priorities, while a lighter-weight rules document handles day-to-day visitor guidance. This structure would make it easier to update rules in response to changing conditions without requiring a full management plan amendment each time. The existence of such a rules document would be explicitly referenced within the management plan itself.

Because ACFC is an advisory body, the committee wants to ensure that any approach to managing a separate rules document is consistent with the Selectboard's expectations and the committee's intended role.

Questions for the Selectboard

The committee is seeking Selectboard guidance on two related questions:

1. Is the Selectboard supportive of maintaining a separate visitor rules document outside of the management plan?
2. If so, what level of Selectboard involvement is appropriate for updates to that document?

Options for Selectboard Involvement

Two approaches are presented for discussion:

Option A — ACFC Recommends, Selectboard Approves:

ACFC proposes changes to the rules document as needed, and any updates are brought to the Selectboard for approval before taking effect.

Option B — ACFC Maintains Independently:

ACFC is authorized to maintain and update the rules document as needed without requiring Selectboard approval for individual changes, while remaining consistent with the approved management plan.