

ACF Meeting - 5/19/22

Call the meeting to order 6:15

In Attendance: Annie Pennfield, David Paganelli, Michael Sacca Erik Skarsten, Rob Stainton, Judith Falk, Dick Ruben, Kevin Gish

1. No Public Input or Concerns
2. Forming a Friends Group - to help with the work and upkeep of the forest.
 - a. If we can come up with tasks then the Friends present can start recruiting people ot help.
 - b. Suggested first project - an official grand opening of the community forest. Sunday September 11th - 1:00 to 4:00.
 - c. Annie and Judith have started a survey to send out to local community members. Part of the community input process.
3. We need to put together a management plan this year. This requires a public input. There is a draft plan in place. Needs sections:
 - Education - Rob, Erik and Michael
 - Wildlife and Ecology - Ask Rudi, Steve Faccio, Michael Sacca, Mickey Colbeck
 - Forest Management - draft completed.
 - Recreation and Public Use - Anna, Judith, Kevin and Erik.
 - History - that would include rules and procedures for the cellar holes. Paul Kristenson, Steve Willbanks, Tyler Robinson. Contact both Historical Societies.

Form small groups to work on each section. Bring them to the whole group for review. Followed by public meetings, one in each town for public comment.

Contact the Historical Societies for both towns to see if they are interested in the site.

Could the cellar site be used as an archeological dig for artifacts.

Has anybody contacted the snowmobile groups for each town? Is this something we want to encourage? The Forest is currently open for snowmobiles.

Hunting - The Forest is currently open for hunting.

The following needs consideration - snowmobiling, hunting, trapping, dogs on a leash, dogs under control. Consideration takes into account the safety of the public using the land.

Update from Steve Faccio - Steve has walked the Forest and Brook and found evidence of breeding Salamanders. Recommends keeping a buffer for the Brook. Recommendations for mowing: meadow openings are too small for nesting birds. Suitable for pollinators. Mowing should take this into consideration when making a mowing plan. Mow early in July to regenerate the Milkweed.

We could decide to enlarge these openings for nesting birds.

Connect Wildlife and Ecology to develop bird habitat. We could ask Andrea Shortsleeve from the State

4. We need somebody to work with the towns so that their websites accurately reflect what the Board wants on there about the Forest. Sharon's is currently pretty good. Do we plan to have our own website - this would make it easier for the Town and would give the Board more control over what is displayed. There is a cost, approximately \$200. Straffords web page for the Forest needs to be updated.

5. Signage - David has an example of signs that he will bring to the next meeting.
Do we need a logo? Can we start an Instagram (Michael will)/Facebook (Annie will) page.
Need a sanctioned blurb.
6. Draft Budget - there is a draft budget, needs a list. This would help with grant work. June 25th meeting on site to look at what needs to be done. Then we can set the budget. Needs a Google Doc.
 - a. Website cost.
 - b. Mowing cost.
 - c. Signage cost. Michael will make a mockup of the sign for the main entrance. David and Michael will research signs.
 - d. Invasive plant management would need a budget but needs a plan.
 - e. Ditches in the parking lot could be filled in or curb blocks put in. Access to upper log landing could be worked on for additional overflow parking.
 - f. Kiosk
 - g. Town clerks have pointed out that there is a \$90 for each town that has not been paid for recording fees. Michael will take care of it if it is AVC responsibility.
 - h. Paint for work day with brushes from Forest Suppliers.
7. Next meeting times.
June 23rd 6:00 to 7:30. At The Justin Morrill Homestead in Strafford.
July 7th 6:00 to 7:30. At The Sharon Academy High School in Sharon.
July 21st 6:00 to 7:30. At The Justin Morrill Homestead in Strafford.

Other Dates

Public Work Day June 26th 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM.

8. Other business
 - First outing is canceled and another walk by Meghan Teachout and Eliza Manuchi will be scheduled later in the summer.
 - Request of David for a tree walk. June 11th Elements of Forest Management
 - Rebels of the Moon with Katrina Alden and Steen to put together a walk or talk for teenagers.

Motion to adjourn: Annie Second Erik. Meeting adjourned at 8:00PM