

Ashley Community Forest Board Meeting

11/3/22

The Sharon Academy

Attending: David Paganelli, Annie Penfield, Michael Sacca

Not attending: Rob Stainton, Erik Skarsten

Friends: Judith Falk

6:15 Call to order

1. No public comment

2. Approve the minutes

Approval of minutes tabled until next meeting

Discussion to approve minutes by email in order to get them out.

3. Minutes procedure

L Bragg, Strafford Town Clerk/ Admin assistant asked about posting minutes to the websites. She needs them in a timely manner in the future.

Rob will be asked to pull minutes together and put in a Google Folder (created by Michael, at

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1RxndAqvUWkkRDh0eruVHFmFizze0YT31>

Draft received, via google doc,

Final via email/google docs, by end of following Monday after the Thursday meeting should be reviewed quickly

Then to be sent to both towns via secretary, Rob (will need email addresses)

4. Overview of public input meeting

Two comments received, Steve F and Annie P

Erik has comments in minutes

Michael- proposed to repost to two towns on listservs, once per week until end of November, verify plan is on the town websites, include the two website links

Summary of Black Locust project

Total cost of milling was \$760. Of that charge, \$380 paid by the ACF fund and the Alliance for Vermont Communities paid the remaining \$380.

Generally successful, Community goodwill well worth the effort per Davis. Will report to the towns. Rocky moved logs and cleaned it up, gave the firewood to Winding Brook Farm.

A number of hands were involved with the effort- Rocky Fuller, Tyler Robinson, David Paganelli, Kevin Gish, Kevin, Graham, Wyatt Blanchard. An additional Black Locust tree was cut to complete the townhouse Lumber order, sawed for free by Cylis Treadwell

and Paul Kifner.

The Town House project ended up being more than half the cost, which was unexpected.

2 posts each for:

Manning Farm Trail

ACF

Kiosk projects in Royalton, Sharon, Strafford, Tunbridge

5. Annie- looking for grants for kiosks, trail construction, signage

Michael mentioned a signboard similar to those found at Morrill homestead to illustrate the foundations and what they were used for in the agrarian past. Judith suggested also including information of how native populations used of the land.

Annie suggested the possibility of having a walking tour with signs for various features including large trees.

It was suggested we visit Tucker Mt in Newbury, and have them visit them. Michael has discussed this with Tom Kidder in the past.

Davis Conservation Foundation money through AVC grant a possibility, perhaps up to 5K possible for trails, signage, etc

6. Expense procedure

Annie as treasurer will identify the cost

Board votes to approve an expense.

7. January mtg: need to submit for town report, need to elect chair, secretary, treasurer.

Need to submit an annual budget to each SB for approval, per the interlocal agreement

Estimated budget

-Invasive plant treatment- 2k

-Boundary marking (no apparent cost, paint was purchased by AVC 2 years ago.)

-Trail construction; north loop, east loop near Nutting and Fetter land

-Porta potty expense

- building of outhouse (to eliminate porta potty) need to ID location

-Signage needed, 4 signs, welcome signs, bigger map/signs (?), Kiosk and signage, decide what is on it, QR codes, possibly hard copy brochures, parking related signs, interpretive signs (history, walking tour signs, trail signs,)

Trail designations: bikes, walkers, horses needed

-Higher stand trail, (?-not sure what is meant...) Sharon side, mirror image of "main loop" on Strafford side, make a big loop, prep for logging, or made during logging,

-Will need excavator to pull stumps, scheduled for 2024

-Forest stand improvement, stand 4 northern part, not in in excluding zone

- Crop tree release
- need "Misc expenses" category to cover small expenses in the budget
- Begin Strategic Planning process in 2023

8. Solicit donations

Revenue side

Haunted forest for next October

Solicit as part of annual fund

Other events, running event, turkey trot, 1k, 5k

Take care to not conflict planned events with other events happening in the area.

Harvesting management: plan is to get on right forest health trajectory, perhaps we will not need to harvest to sustain the income, perhaps grants and donations can cover necessary expenses.

9. Outings

Forest carbon workshop, partnering with Strafford Energy Committee, Sharon too?

Outings committee needs to meet, start planning for winter and spring 2023

Pride walk, Rebels of the Moon, Native topics

Moonlight walks

Next meeting: Thursday December 8th, 6pm at Morrill Homestead, Strafford.

7:35 adjourn