

## Ashley Community Forest Board Meeting Notes

Thursday, 6/23/22

Justin Morrill Education Center, Strafford

Meeting called to order 6:11pm

**In Attendance:** Annie Pennfield, David Paganelli, Michael Sacca, Erik Skarsten, and Friends of Ashley Community Forest: Judith Falk, Dick Ruben, Micki Colbeck

1. **Public Comment:** Vehicle tracks have been observed going onto the logging trail beyond the class IV road. People in the vehicle moved downed logs that had been placed to control erosion and access. It was stated that the most recent survey shows that the class IV road ends at the parking lot which is also where the logging roads start.
  - a. Should a gate that had been present, be replaced to prevent unauthorized vehicle use? Micki suggested that a gate would curb any future damage that would come from unplanned continued use. After some discussion, Annie put a motion on the table to replace a gate. Michael seconded the motion. The Board voted in favor of replacing the gate.
    - i. The ACF Board and Friends of the ACF will look for used gate parts.
    - ii. Locust poles may be able to be harvested from the ACF.
    - iii. A corral would be considered to allow individuals to freely pass around the gate.

B. Concern over visitors moving stones from walls and foundation, discussion regarding closing the foundation to visitors due to possible damage to foundation and visitors. Review the situation on the work day, June 26.

2. **Friends of ACF:** Work day on Sunday the 26th from 1-3 pm. Weather (heat) may be an issue, so be aware of potential rescheduling.
  - a. Bring tools: saws, post hole diggers, clippers, rakes, land clearing saws, etc.
3. **Review Draft of Recreation and Public Use Plan:** Discussion of the **Recreation Use in the Ashley Community Forest Management Plan - DRAFT**
  - a. Leashed versus non leashed pets discussed. Verbiage regarding lease laws will remain as "...pets on a leash at all times ..."
  - b. Maps and trail signs are available : Need official signage regarding stone walls and foundations use (leave no trace)
  - c. Portable Toilette:
    1. Request the Portable toilet on site be removed, Sharon School is paying for it right now.
    2. Should the toilet be maintained? Should we transition to a Composting Toilet ? Should we transition to a Moldering Toilette that gets used on the AT?Continued discussion of this will be as a future agenda item: Facility Needs

- d. Continued discussion / modification of the draft will ensue online. The goal is to have an agreed upon draft that will be shared with the community for comment after the next board meeting.
4. **Review of Education & Forest Management Plan:** Tabled for future discussion
5. **Progress Update:**
- a. Ecology Plan: Micki Colbeck will coordinate with Steve Facio, Dan Ruddell and Michael Sacca regarding the specifics that could be included in the draft Ecological Plan.
  - b. Wildlife Plan: Andrea Shortleave from the Vermont Fish and Wildlife has offered to walk with the board to constitute the wildlife section of the stewardship plan (7/22 @ 9am)
  - c. Annie opened an ACF email account.
  - d. Town websites need to be standardized.
6. **Kiosk and Signage:** The need for an entrance sign is immediate.
- a. Michael offered up a temporary sign to be used at the entrance and will present it to the board for review.
  - b. Discussion continued regarding the type of future permanent signage and was tabled until a later date.

**Next meeting is 7/7 in Sharon, (TSA)**

**Motion to Adjourn :** Annie, Seconded by Erik at **7:48pm**