

Stranahan Forest Stewardship Committee

1/10/2017

Minutes

This meeting was originally scheduled for December 27th and moved to January 3rd to accommodate member's holiday plans and further to January 10th because of a predicted ice storm

Place: Old Schoolhouse Common Meeting Room

Time 6:00 PM

Members Present: Rich Phillips Brett Engstrom, Michael Sabourin, Sarah Fowler, Rain Banbury, Jenny Warshow, Ellen Cooke

Conservation Committee Members Present: Ed Jalbert, Anne Miller, Tabor Allison

Public Present: Kass Phillips

Public Comment

Agenda Adjustment

11/21/16 Minutes Approved

Annual Report: Approved with the corrections made

Proposed meeting VLT: The Committee, along with members of the Select Board, would like to meet the VLT on January 24, 2017 for a general discussion, current issues discussion and to hear suggestions about rewriting and updating the overall Virginia Stranahan Memorial Town Forest Management Plan (VSMTF). Rich suggested that members read the VSMTF Management Plan and the Easement to prepare for the meeting on the 24th. The 24th was later confirmed

Parking lot update and discussion: The Parking lot does not need a zoning permit as thought. The town has signed a contract to remove trees with logger Mike Baril (Marshfield Logging). Apparently Lincoln Centers will take down the trees for the firewood. Rich will follow up with Select Board to ask if they would consider using Lincoln to save the money on tree removal.

Approval of Expenditures

Motion was made and unanimously approved that any expenditure of \$100 or more requires approval of the Committee. No agreement with the Select Board or anyone else will be made without such approval

Budget Approval: The following motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved:

I move the Committee approve a recommended budget as follows for calendar year 2017:

Parking Lot Tree Cutting	\$ 700
Boundary Markers	\$ 400
Trail Markers	\$ 50
Maintenance, Supplies, Small Purchases	\$ 200

I further move that the Committee ask the Select Board for permission to purchase items under the Maintenance, Supplies, Small Purchases allotment without prior approval of the Select Board.

Volunteers

Town Meeting Display: Brett and Jenny will work together to create the Forest display for Town meeting.

By-laws: Michael will look at the town Open Meeting Law policy and the by-laws of other town committees to see what might be useful to the committee. He agreed to make the effort to present what he finds by our April 2017 meeting.

Town Report: Brett already completed the draft for this meeting. Thank you Brett

Bike Recommendation to Select Board

Members have reviewed the several submissions from the Riders of Plainfield and Marshfield regarding their proposal of February 16, 2016 to build a trail northwest of the Thompson Road. The proposal was discussed at length. Several members expressed concerns with approving this proposal. These concerns included 1) Additional trails should not be approved until the approved trails are built and their impact evaluated. 2) Additional trails should not be approved until we have more public input through the anticipated management plan update. Several other concerns were raised.

Committee recommends to the Select Board that this proposal not be approved

The Committee unanimously adopted the following motion:

Regarding the proposal of the Riders in Marshfield and Plainfield dated February 16, 2016 to construct a new bike trail northwest of the Thompson Road, the Stranahan Stewardship Committee recommends to the Select Board that this proposal not be approved at this time

Committee members expressed an interest in working with the Bike Club to establish the routing of the approved trail between the Jake Martin Road and the Moon Field and to establish the length and type of impact evaluation we envision after the completion of the approved trail

Rich will draft type the letter to the Select Board regarding the bike decision, including the reasons for the decision Members are to provide Rich with any input they want to the letter by Tuesday January 17th

Agenda items for January 24th:

Meeting with VLT

Review letter to Select Board re: Bike Trail Decision.