

Stranahan Stewardship Committee Monthly Meeting
February 28,2017
Draft Minutes

Time: 6:00 PM- 8:40 PM

Place: Old Schoolhouse Common Meeting Room

Present: Michael Sabourin, Rain Banbury, Sarah Fowler, Rich Phillips,

Visitors: Sumana Sherchen, Regional Manager, VLT, Caitlin Cusack, Regional Forestry Manager, VLT, Dan Singleton, Washington County Forester

Public Attending: Kass Phillips, James Arisman

Public Comment: none

Agenda Adjustment: Reverse order so VLT representatives first

Approved 1/31/17 Meeting Minutes:

1) Meeting with Land Trust:\

- Sumana provided a copy of a chart that identifies what activities need approval from VLT. It is quite helpful

- The easement is the broad document and the management plan is more specific.

- The easement identifies permitted uses of the land

- The easement is legally binding between VLT and VHCB and the town. VLT and VHCB are the grantees and the town is the grantor. LVT acts in an oversight and go-between role for VMCB to assure the town stays in compliance with the easement and the management plan.

- Sumana Serchen, Regional Stewardship Manager's main role is working with landowners after the land is conserved, to assist and assure compliance with the easement and management plan Catlin is our contact for forestry issues

- The streams, buffer zones and wetlands identified on the conservation plan attached to the easement were developed by Department of Conservation staff, VLT and Brett. These areas are given substantial protection under the easement. In the management plan Marshfield extended that same high level of protection to wetlands identified by the town. VLT/VHCB rightfully requires Marshfield to provide the increased protections to these Marshfield-identified wetlands. These additional sites have not been identified except in the areas planned to be logged (as they will affect the logging operations).

- The management plan is the place to balance all potential uses. As long as the easement constraints are met, the town has free rein to balance the uses provided they exercise that balancing in accord with a duly adopted management plan

We discussed with Dan Singleton how he deals with wetlands and stream crossings in his work. He said he uses the state wetland rules, the Accepted Logging Practises and the buffers and wetlands in the easement to guide his work but will use whatever additional constraints the town has established. We expect to have Dan and Caitlin out when we are dealing with the logging issue as we update the management plan

We discussed updating the management plan this year with particular emphasis on recreation and logging. We discussed ways of getting public input. At least one town on the Valley had great luck on input--we need to look into that. We have various resources for this including FPF

- Suggestion was made to look at the Baseline Documentation Report (1/31/17). This report details the property and the history of the land and the intention of conserving it.

- Rain asked about putting the baseline document on the town website. Sumana did not answer but the easement and the management plan are on the website so shouldn't this be up there also

-Towns in Vermont that have Mt bike trails in town forests: Fayston, Barre Town, Waitsfield, Waterbury. Committee can pursue how these towns manage multi use areas that include multiple recreational interests.

--Caitlin provided information of potential sources for grants and they will add to that list in their follow up to this meeting

2) Briefly discussed the final details of the Select Board's decision concerning the bike trail.

3) Briefly discussed the status of the tree removal project ---- waiting for Lincoln to set the day and we need to clean up the limb wood. We are thinking about just moving the light wood/brush to the back of the lot and letting it rot down

Agenda Items for March 28th:

Next projects discussion