25 April 2022
7:05

Attending: Gabe, Kelly, Jim, Kate G, Joe Cotton, DJ, Dave, Mike Greene, Gordon, (IT guy),
via Zoom: Linda, Maria, Kate W, Hayden

Approved minutes from our first meeting. The minutes are approved

Updates on the Bourne property from Kate. They are still interested in the potential sale. They hired the same appraiser we used for other property. If they like the number for the property they will agree to sell. We will possibly know at the end of May or June for the appraisal amount. The title work is done for the other property. Environmental phase one analysis in early May. They will look for toxic concerns and will make sure toxic clean up is done prior to purchase and we would do the same for the Bourne property.

The funding update:
April 14th we sent information to the DEC. We are trying to get a Whisper grant. It is the easiest grant. The backup funding is with the VT Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB). They want to make sure we have appropriate wetland protections. Sinuosity made changes for their trail design to make some accommodation for wetland protection. We will try to limit our stream crossings. Vorac update: met with the planning commission 2 ½ weeks ago. They are looking at permits to connect school property to other properties. Kate will connect with the school board regarding this and trail planning.

Any questions or concerns?
None.

Gordon goes on to discuss the organization of the google drive for the committee.
QandA continues:
Meeting Documents Folder: Gordon proposes separate folders for each meeting to fall underneath the meeting documents folder.

Kate W. followed up on old growth forest. It is good to consider setting aside some land to not be actively managed so in 100 years the land will be different than the other actively managed portions.

We need to consider community use. What will we decide on horse trails? Dogs on the properties? Snowmobile usage?
It is important to consider how we self-police when we see people using the property in ways not outlined as appropriate in our community agreements in the charter.

How we decide on certain activities may require us to work with other town committees to make sure our decisions can support or be able to be supported by the town vision for certain facilities and amenities. For example, horses require spaces for large trailers for people.

Linda Martin spoke on future items in the town:
Septic field at school with new bridge on school street to accomodate a pipe to go to the school. The old school house may work as a cafe/historical museum. They are looking at narrowing the street for calming effect. Septic system is the first thing to be addressed before other large items can be addressed.

Portajohns are a good idea regarding where to place them and to have them until septic is fixed. We will need them to provide services for people who come off the trails and out of the forest.

Linda suggests that committee members push ideas to the select board to guide town decision making for planning.

The idea of composting toilets as an option was shared and Linda said she would bring up the idea to discuss with the town.

Gordon gives 3 minutes to read over the community forest committee charter task section to see what we would like to begin to focus on.

Gabe Tempesta will speak with vtrans to see how the rail trail may connect to our property.

Gordon proposed to create subcommittees

Community Outreach committee (including planning of community events and other outreach.)
Expert Groups committee to meet with entities such as vtrans

Aug 26 is proposed date for community barbecue. This would be a good time to solicit input.

Discussion was shared about how we place the trails. Trails impact wildlife and it is better to place trails together instead of spreading them throughout a property.

Maria Stadtmueller will lead the Community Outreach Committee: Kelly, Joe, Bill, Kate Garvey, are on the committee

Gabe Tempesta, DJ Masi will be the core of the “Advisors and Experts” committee

Committee members commented on their desire to get to know the property better, including locations of rare species habitat - and general knowledge about what features exist. Members are encouraged to review materials provided by TPL in the Committee Google folder as a good place to start.

Community invited to walk the property. We will meet at the ball field on school street at 9:00. Kate will send a map with a proposed route for us to follow.

Next meeting will be on May 31st to accommodate for the holiday.