Wolcott Community Forest Committee Charter

- Adopted by the Selectboard on April 20, 2022

Purpose:

The mission of the Wolcott Community Forest Stewardship Committee (WCFSC) is to plan for and steward the Wolcott Community Forest. This committee will work with community members and leaders, County Forester, Vermont Fish and Wildlife, Trust for Public Land, Northern Rivers Land Trust and relevant experts in their fields, to develop a set of guiding principles, goals, and objectives to develop a Community Forest Stewardship Plan. The Wolcott Selectboard will have ultimate decision-making authority over the Property after receiving recommendations from the Committee.

Background:

In January 2023 the Town of Wolcott anticipates acquiring a 307 acre parcel of land on either side of East Elmore Road which connects to the Wolcott Elementary School for a Town Forest. There is the possibility of acquiring an additional 399 acres that would abuts the property and connects to the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail. A conservation easement will be placed on the property.

The Property includes frontage on the Elmore Branch, 17 acres of wetlands and 39 acres of Riparian areas along with logging trails, timber and open fields. A portion of an old town road, (now a trail) borders a property line in places.

The Property contains a portion of a Groundwater Source Protection Area near the Wolcott Elementary School.

Rare and uncommon species have been found on the Property.

Organization:

The Selectboard has formally recognized the Wolcott Community Forest Committee as a standing Town Committee. Meetings will follow the Open Meeting Laws and posted Agendas and Minutes are required.

There will be elected a Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary.

There are 16 appointed members to the Committee who will have voting rights. Vacancies will be filled by the Wolcott Selectboard. (see Appendix A)

Terms of members will be two years with ability to be reappointed for staggering terms.

There will be a separate Trails Committee that will work with the Planning Commission on trail design and maintenance.

Activities:

Solicit and/or conduct on-the-ground investigation of the current natural, historic, and land-use conditions of the property.

Initiate a process for public meetings and outreach surveys to gather public input on potential uses, restrictions, projects, partnerships, maintenance and any other relevant topics.

Make decisions on uses, activities, restrictions, etc. to be implemented in the Stewardship Plan.

Share and integrate goals and Plan with the community.

Develop relationships with other municipal and local and regional boards, committees and organization including the Wolcott Planning Commission, Trails Committee, Wolcott Athletic Association, Wolcott Recreation Committee, Wolcott School Board, Vtrans - Lamoille Valley Rail Trail, Lamoille Regional Planning Commission, Lamoille County Conservation District, Women of Wolcott and include their assistance in public informational gatherings.

Research options for land-based income generation in support of Stewardship activities.

Research Grants and other outside funding opportunities.

Author a Stewardship Plan summarizing available information about the property and laying out the intended uses, rules, restrictions, and process for future decision making and Plan updates. (An interim Plan will need to be approved by the Selectboard, Trust for Public Land, Northern Rivers Land Trust and project funders before the time of purchase.)

Solicit and/or prepare cost estimates for projects, maintenance, and other potential/proposed activities.

Revise and update the Stewardship Plan on schedule laid out in the Plan or as otherwise deemed necessary. The Plan will have a goal of creating a 10 year plan

Implement and oversee stewardship activities as laid out in the Stewardship Plan, and make recommendations to the Selectboard regarding activities, uses, and special circumstances raised, but not directly addressed in the Plan.

Product:

A Wolcott Community Forest Stewardship Plan endorsed by the Wolcott Community and approved by the Selectboard and The Trust for Public Land.

An ongoing Committee to oversee Stewardship activities, decision making and Plan updates into the future.

Establish relationships and channels of communication between the Committee, key stakeholders and the community at large, generating a broad base of support for the Stewardship Plan and activities related hereto.

Allen carpenter

APPENDIX A

WOLCOTT COMMUNITY FOREST COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP

Billings	Kurt	Vice-Chair
Cotten	Joe	
English	Maxfield	
Foster	Matt	Secretary
Garvey	Cate	
Gilson	Bill	
Green	Mike	
Holton	David	
Jolly	Leslie	
Lively	Kelly	
Masi	DJ	
Metayer	Gwen	
Stadtmueller	Maria	
Tempesta	Gabriel	
Waring	Elliot	
Young	Gordon	Chair