Wolcott Community Forest Committee

Notes from public meeting on Monday, July 8, 2024
6 pm – 7 pm

Attending: *Roger*, *Gordon*, *DJ, Kelly, Gilly, Joe*, Debra Merrill, Sue Healy
Online: Hayden, *Gabriel*, Bradley, *Maxfield*

Committee members present are italicized.
Quorum: yes

Agenda

1. Call to order (6:05 pm)
2. Organizational actions
    a. Amendments to agenda
    b. Approve minutes from last meeting
        i. Moved, Roger, Second, Gilly
            1. **Approved, unanimous**
3. Public comment
        i. none
4. Land purchase updates (6:10 pm)
    a. Status report from TPL [Hayden]
        i. Sinuosity
            1. Submitted town permit for improvements within the floodplain (school property), not needed for recreation fields; no other permits flagged; identified some of the planned trail work to be on class 2 wetlands which will need to rerouted to avoid triggering a permit
        ii. Contacted VOREC to amend grant, but no info yet
            1. High possibility that we can extend the date; depends greatly upon closing date in relation to the end of their work season
        iii. Preparing closing documents for both properties, for when we get the “green light”
        iv. Soil report [referring to document in file]

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1. Report compiled from samples taken in May;
    a. affordable housing site needs to be cleaned up prior to close; may change eventual use of that property moving forward; plan on moving forward with affordable housing, but brownfield funding applications are competitive
        i. [Gilly]: re: soil remediation of affordable housing site, will this affect the closing of the Bourne and Bedell properties?
        ii. [Hayden] agreement in place, should not impede the closing of the town forest site
    b. site around former telephone pole, topsoil must be removed and disposed of, then re-tested to confirm removal; should go quickly
        i. [Gordon] soil management plan is less burdensome, and we can proceed with closing?
        ii. [Hayden] soil remediation plan is basically written; waiting on funding to cover remediation which comes through EPA via Vermont DEC, but has additional requirements (public relations plan and brownfield alternatives assessment), neither of which really apply; seeking waiver of these, and have been in the past with other similar projects

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iii. [Gordon] what is the cost of the removal? Are there other sources that are more readily available?
iv. [Hayden] prefer to use the available outside funding, as this is not currently in our budget
v. [Maxfield] are costs related to transport requirements, re: special truck, and disposal at an appropriate site?
vi. [Hayden] not sure of all requirements, but essentially yes; plus, there are follow up reporting requirements
vii. [Gilly] estimated date of close?
viii. [Hayden] if those req. are waived, then likely in August; need to add language to Stewardship Plan; Stone Environmental will provide most of that language; possibly up to 3 months, though
ix. [Joe] is closing is bumped back will we have an issue with the Bourne property?
x. [Hayden] we extended the agreements with both landowners to end of April 2025; they are locked in until then
xi. [DJ] should we extend the VOREC deadline until the end of 2025?

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xii. [Hayden] certainly; Sinuosity could begin some construction, but are still working through permitting

5. New business (6:20 pm)
    a. Review the edited Forest Management Plan
        i. Motion: Recommend that the Selectboard approve the FMP for incorporation into the Community Forest Stewardship Plan
            1. Moved Joe, Second Gilly
                a. **Approved unanimously**
    b. Discuss soil analysis results and recommended action
        i. [see above]
            1. [Hayden] **Waiting on amended language for the Stewardship Plan from Stone Environmental, to be submitted for approval at August 7 Selectboard meeting**
6. Adjourn (7 pm)