Wolcott Community Forest Committee

Meeting notes on Thursday January 9, 2025
6 pm – 8 pm

At the **Wolcott Town Office**
or join the **online Zoom Meeting**:
Meeting ID: 814 3120 2980
Passcode: 944699

1. Call to order (6:05 pm)
2. Organizational actions
    a. Amendments to agenda
        i. Gabe: VT Coverts want to do a talk with Emily about the town forest; reached out to us; all invited; date is not finalized yet
            1. Gordon: any needs to help support?
                a. Gabe: not at this time; just looking for people to attend; maybe a potluck
    b. Approve minutes from last meeting
        i. Moved: Gordon
        ii. Second: Cate
            1. **4 yes, Dave abstains**
                a. **Passed**
3. Public comment
4. Ongoing
    a. Status report from TPL (6:10 pm)
        i. None
        ii. Jack: have we heard more about the soil around the pole?
            1. Gordon: no information yet; **will follow up**
    b. Trail building update from Sinuosity (6:20 pm)
        i. No update
        ii. Largely complete with the trail from the school down to Flat Iron Rd; not exactly clear where it comes out; no communication with Sinuosity since November

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1. Cate: will they resume in May
    a. Gordon: yes, as soon as conditions allow
2. Gordon: Some trails are ridable up behind the school; we had some conversation of clearing out debris last meeting but will have to wait until Spring at this point

c. Recruiting committee members, two vacancies
    i. Gordon: Select Board has final authority; they are open to our recommendations; Mike, would you like to occupy one of the available seats? How about you, Maxfield?
        1. Mike: yes
        2. Maxfield: yes
    ii. Gordon: any other candidates in mind? Any concerns about this process? Let's vote and formalize our recommendation to the Select Board.
        1. Passed, 4 yes, 1 abstain
            a. Passed
        2. Gabe: Select Board will review and vote?
            a. Gordon: yes, at their next meeting

5. New business (6:40 pm)
    a. Response to snowmobiling on forest land
        i. Gordon: (correction) not a snowmobile, but a 4-wheeler; told Select Board that we can take care of this; we are seeking "No Motor Vehicle" signage
            1. Mike: where is the area of concern?
            2. Gordon: point of entry is where the waste water pump station will be; trail head is currently roped off; no further signs since roped; likely a neighbor on Flat Iron Rd; as it violates the easement, we have to be

attentive to it; simple signage would be an appropriate next step; up to us to get them posted

a. Roger: should I post on Front Porch?

i. Jack: might be best to just talk to people directly rather than draw attention to it, which could lead to more activity

ii. Gordon: agreed

3. Gordon: **there is some required verbiage that needs to be added to signs from the forest service; I'll locate it;** necessary for long term, custom designed signs

ii. Marketing assets

1. **Collect ideas for signage; discuss next month**
2. **Website discussion and communications w/ Bradley**
   a. Roger: last discussion we had was to activate it to sign up volunteers
3. **Logos**
   a. Gordon: currently have 2 logos; we'll bring them to them next meeting and discuss if/how we want to use each of them
4. **Kiosk pictures**
   a. Maxfield: please take pictures of other park kiosks and bring ideas so that we can plan construction
5. **Town meeting – display board**
   a. Gordon: Prepare a poster for the town office/town meeting day show our plan

b. Process for spending requests

i. Roger: Please send requests to Gordon or me; this will signal to Belinda that the spending request has been discussed; request will be passed to her, and she'll add it to the Select Board agenda; if approved, a check will be prepared and can be picked up at the town office; submit one copy of receipt to Belinda, send to other to me for our annual report

c. Volunteer recruitment drive, trail-builders
    i. Gordon: **discuss next month**; may want to plan another meeting before town meeting day

d. Trails on the Bourne property
    i. Gordon
        1. Gabe: do changes need approval by the town and easement holders?
            a. Gordon: yes; we're still working out a process for designing trails; before construction it must be approved
            b. Cate: is there a plan already for what we want to do?
                i. Gordon: I have ideas; **I'll bring a map to our next meeting**
            c. Jack: this land was intended for recreation purposes, so it shouldn't take a lot of paperwork to build new ones, so long as we have Emily's feedback; a map would be crucial for this process
            d. Gordon: went over grant applications generally with Sinuosity; they explained that these are competitive, and is an ever-shrinking pot; did

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not apply for any this year; would need professional grant writers if we pursue them

e. Rail Trail Kiosk
    i. Mike: I'm on the Rail Trail Committee, spearheading the effort to repurpose the old railroad station foundation; planning on installing a kiosk; have a small grant ($12K), pending approval; acquired a lease from the rail trail; we have a repurposed kiosk top; could connect well with the Westover property; would be a great entry point for the town forest property
        1. Gordon: there are lot of possibilities with the Westover property, but we need to clarify with the Select Board
f. Trail maintenance:
    i. Nothing planned until next spring

6. Adjourn (8 pm)