

Boyce Hill Town Forest Steering Committee
Draft Minutes
December 2, 2020

Steering Committee: See Task List on Page 3 of these minutes!

1. Chuck made a motion to approve the minutes of November 18, 2020 and Sally seconded. No further discussion, all in favor, motion was approved.
2. There was no public input.
3. All agreed on goals for today's meeting.
 - a. Determine preliminary budget considerations for BHFF
 - b. Continue discussion re: Town Forest Planning
 - c. Agree on next steps
4. Steering Committee Structure
 - a. Pete will help organize agendas for the next few meetings.
 - b. Lisa will take minutes for the next few meetings.
5. Town Forest Planning Toolkit re: Phase 1
 - a. First step: Existing Conditions and Assessments
 - i. Community profile: Fayston and Mad River Valley
 1. # of members, age group, etc.
 2. Existing public lands, trails, etc.
 - ii. Base maps
 1. Context map
 2. Natural resources map
 3. Maps need to be similar in appearance
 - b. Discussion of how much community information to include – focus on Fayston or include the entire Valley?
 - i. The property is an asset to the whole Valley but will this overwhelm the land?
 - ii. Possible to do both. Start small and expand to larger valley community as a next step
 - iii. Previous owner wanted to ensure use by larger community
 - iv. Profile helpful in thinking about community survey and public outreach
 - v. Need to understand use patterns and what draws people to places
 - vi. Can look at demographics of our community and look at specific user groups. Need to get a representative input
 - c. **ACTION ITEM**
 - i. Before next meeting, work on base maps and begin compiling community information.
 - ii. https://vtcommunityforestry.org/sites/default/files/pictures/Town_Forest_Toolkit/Existing_Conditions_Pod/community_profile_toolkit_instructions.pdf
 - iii. Corrie/Lisa send NRI shape files to Caitlin to streamline base maps.
 - d. Determine how to educate the public and get public input (Zoom presentations? Guest speakers?)
 - i. Town of Huntington example - <https://forest.huntingtonvt.org/>

1. Educational workshop followed by a Q & A, and then input from the public
 2. Effective way of soliciting public input as well as providing information about the property.
 3. Possible topics: Land Management, Natural Resources, Education, Recreation, and Hunting/Trapping
- ii. Story Map
 1. Think about creating one for BHTF. Would help provide the public with information in a timely manner.
 2. Would need to get help to create one.
6. Discussion of hunting/trapping and historical use.
7. Determine what part of the Long-Term Management Planning process could be delegated to a third party.
 - a. Facilitation of group conversation or management plan writing
 - b. Other communities have either used a facilitator or have relied on their own community members (i.e. Steering Committee)
 - c. Timeline is typically one to two years from beginning to end of process
 - d. Discussion of public perception and of using a third party: generally effective if dealing with controversial topics
 - e. VLT has AmeriCorps members who might be available to help with writing the management plan
 - f. Third party might matter more with the public meeting facilitation, so we don't appear to skew the conversation
 - g. Facilitator allows the Steering Committee to listen more effectively and ensures that all voices are heard
 - h. A good facilitator can summarize complex information and is an unbiased participant
 - i. Transparency helps mitigate perception of bias
 - j. VT Council of Rural Development – potential source for third party facilitator
8. Town Budget considerations for BHTF in preparation for December 8 meeting with SB
 - a. Need for a possible Viewshed Analysis – calculation of vegetation growth using LIDAR, better detail than elevation maps
 - b. Funds for property maintenance/management
 - i. Mowing (3 days approximately)
 - ii. Tree-cutting
 - iii. Signs – parking, boundary markings
 - iv. Pond maintenance
 - c. Funds for Long-Term Management Plan
 - i. Facilitator help (possibly 7 meetings)
 - ii. Public Survey and Education Forum costs
 - iii. Marketing/Education
 - iv. Mapping materials
 - v. Possible technology costs
 - d. Costs re: solicitations for funding
 - i. Postage
 - ii. Letters/Envelopes/Postcard?
 - iii. List compilation

1. Discussion of accessing a mailing list for each town
2. How many people would we mail to? Fayston residents/taxpayers/renters? Other users to help alleviate burden on Fayston?
- e. What other forms of funding could we access?
 - i. Grants
 - ii. Private donations
 - iii. Online campaign
 - iv. Lawson's
- f. Draft budget created in shared folder
- g. Informational mailings to Fayston residents, fundraising mailings to broad Valley community
9. Other Business
 - a. Town Meeting: Australian ballot in 2021
 - b. Using public lands to educate people on how to do things on their own properties. For example: apple tree pruning
 - c. Pond is finally filling up!
 - d. When adding items to the shared document, title with more user-friendly names

TASKS

- Pete: Organize agendas for next few meetings
Will contact MRVAS to see how many people on their mailing list
- Lisa: Take minutes for next few meetings
Work with Caitlin and Corrie to develop base maps
Work with Sally on spreadsheet of public interests
Send Community Profile list to group
- Sally: Work on spreadsheet for public interest input to-date
Follow up with McCain Consulting for cost of a viewshed analysis
- Corrie: Send Caitlin shape files for NRI maps
Develop draft budget to present to SB
Work with Caitlin and Lisa re: base maps
- Caitlin: Help develop base maps with Lisa and Corrie
Follow-up with Ethan Tapper and VLT GIS people re: story map process
Follow up with Vermont Council on Rural Development re: facilitation cost
- Chuck: Follow-up with Patti Lewis on postage costs
- Karrie: Continue with follow-up re: info on third party help on management plan
- Woody: Help install the new parking sign when it arrives
Help Lisa mark boundary with Fuller property
- All: Review budget in preparation for SB budget meeting
Begin thinking about educational forums and story map

Select Board Budget Meeting: Wednesday, December 9, 2020 – 3:30 pm
Next Steering Committee Meeting: Wednesday, December 16, 2020 – 7:00 pm