Catamount Community Forest Committee: Meeting Minutes
July 11, 2024 - 5:30-7:00 PM
7878 Williston Road
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2hEf6pV9M-I

Members Present: Alan Cote, Reed Parker, Hans Buehler, Danielle Doucette, Jeanne Jensen
Members Absent:

Others Present: Andrew Plumb (staff)
Call to Order – Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm

1. **Public comment –** There was no public comment.

1.1. Danielle thanked Terry Marron for her time on the CCFC. The committee discussed the appointment of a new member.

2. **Approval of June 13, 2024, minutes** – Reed Parker made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Hans Buehler. Motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

3. **COFC Wedding Update to Management Plan**

3.1. Hans explained that he is not proposing a change to his proposal for an amendment to the management plan but that he would like to focus the discussion on celebrations for now and set aside concerts and fairs. He explained that the document he submitted for this meeting is a response to the requests for information from the easement holders. Andrew explained that the CCFC needs to approve a proposal from the COFC to send to the Vermont Land Trust and that the proposal should answer the questions from VLT.

3.2. Reed said he read the document ahead of the meeting and supports the position in the proposal. Danielle had questions about the timeline of approval of document. Andrew explained that this is the first step, and once the committee has approved the proposal, it will go to Vermont Land Trust, then the CCFC would submit a proposed amendment to the management plan to the Selectboard.

3.3. Hans reviewed the proposal the COFC submitted and the CCFC discussed the proposed locations. The committee discussed the frequency of celebrations and what celebrations would trigger a TEP. Hans asked Andrew if the COFC could hold a birthday party (or other small celebration) and if a COI is required. Andrew said he did not know the answer to Hans' question. Danielle suggested the CCFC could discuss this question further at a later date. The CCFC discussed the impact of celebrations. Danielle suggested that the document explain the impact of celebrations on wildlife.

3.4. The committee discussed notifying neighbors for celebrations. Jeanne discussed the purpose of the town forest and asked if the celebrations or weddings that the COFC are proposing are aligned with that purpose. The committee discussed capping the number of celebrations per year and how the town could provide oversight of celebration events from year to year.

3.5. Danielle asked if a wedding could be held on other town land. Andrew and the committee discussed this question and the requirements for approval. Jeanne said that they would not be able to serve alcohol.

3.6. Jeanne reiterated that she thinks the committee should decide on a cap for the number of celebrations per year. Hans explained a possible approach to providing a proposal for the number of celebrations to the easement holders then to the town. Hans asked the committee to confirm the number of celebrations they will propose.

3.7. The committee discussed the roles of the governing documents for the land. Andrew explained that the land trust approves the amendment to the management plan. Andrew showed the committee the correspondence with the land trust to explain their role in approving the management plan. Andrew clarified that the land trust provides preliminary approval of the management plan, then the selectboard provides final approval.

3.8. Hans said that the COFC could provide an edited version of the proposal for approval at the next meeting. Jeanne asked if the CCFC is providing too much information. Hans offered to pair down the proposal. Reed said that the COFC could make a map. Danielle asked for more clarity on the impact of the commercial use in the updated version of the proposal. The committee agreed that providing clarity on the TEP process for the land trust would be helpful. Jeanne pointed out that providing more general details for the proposal to the land trust may provide the family center more flexibility.

4. Other business

4.1. Town Forest Events—No events to discuss.

4.2. Future Agenda Items

4.2.1. Alan said that John hopes to present the trail master plan at the next meeting. Danielle asked if the committee should talk about hosting birthdays at Catamount.

4.2.2. Andrew provided an update on the EAB treatment that occurred at Catamount. Andrew also provided an update on the UVM tree planting occurring in the forest management area. Reed said he participated in this project.

Next Meeting—The next meeting is scheduled for August 8, 2024.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58pm.