
Letter of Transmittal

DATE: 5/1/2018

TO: Williston Selectboard

FROM: Erik Wells, Assistant to the Town Manager

RE: CATAMOUNT MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR REVIEW

Please find the draft Management Plan (the “plan”) for the Catamount Community Forest as it accompanies this letter of transmittal. The approval of the plan by the Selectboard is a required task before the acquisition of the property can take place.

The plan was developed by the Catamount Community Forest Committee over the past year as a result of discussions covering a number of policy areas. Town Conservation Planner Melinda Scott served as its author. In areas where the committee was able to reach consensus on a specific policy item that language is included in this draft. Policy items where the committee did not reach a consensus, for example dogs on the property, are noted with suggestions to consider a policy path forward.

The Selectboard can choose to adopt an interim management plan and work in the months after acquiring the property to reach a final plan. That would allow additional time to continue policy discussions in areas for possible new uses on the property. This management plan can be amended over time, as the plan developed now is not intended to be permanent. How the property is managed will need to be adjusted over the many years ahead for the Town. The License Agreement with the Catamount Family Outdoor Center is an addendum to the plan.

Discussion of the plan will be an upcoming item at Selectboard meetings in May/June. It’s provided with the agenda this evening to provide time for review.