**Tucker Mountain Town Forest Management Committee**

**What:** Minutes

**When:** February 11, 2019, 6:30-8:00 PM

**Who:** Tom Kidder- Co-Chair, Dianne Norton-C o-Chair, Andrea Franklin, Jeremy Longto, Kirk Morrison, Kathy Damon, John Nininger

* 6:35: Tom Kidder moved the meeting to order and welcomed all
* The committee members introduced themselves and discussed their interest in serving on the committee.
* The group discussed the Expectations and Role of the Committee.
  + All agendas are to be considered: hunting, hiking, snowmobiling, ATVing, XC skiing, public access, forestry.
  + It is expected that the committee will be long-term and there will be constant change of priorities.
  + The committee will develop a Management Plan which will include, for example, such concerns as the following
    - Preservation
    - Logging
    - Hunting
    - Access – roads
    - Parking lots
    - Trail building
  + Subcommittee will be formed to discuss specific topic. These subcommittees will included additional members. Examples of subcommittees
    - Recreation
    - Signage
    - Wildlife
  + The committee will act as a liaison to other entities
    - Selectboard
    - Conservation Committee
    - Citizens of Newbury
  + The group discussed the Open Meeting Protocol
    - The meetings fall under the VT Open Meeting protocols
    - The group decided that the Committee will meet the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month from 6:30-8:00 PM at the Newbury Town Office. Since these will be regularly scheduled meetings, each meeting does not need to be warned separately.
    - Each meeting agenda will be posted
    - Minutes are required and must be submitted within 5 days to the co-chairs. The co-chairs will be responsible for getting the minutes published to the Newbury town Web site.
    - Meetings are open to the public. Each agenda should begin with a Public Comment.
  + The group discussed the Interim Town Forest Management Plan
    - Role of Vermont Land Trust
      * They were critical to the land acquisition
      * There are existing conservation easements on the property
      * There is a conservation plan in existence
      * Mission is to preserve the land
      * Want to use Tucker Mountain as a Pilot Program. Details to be discussed at a later meeting.
      * Have provided $20K to begin a management fund
      * There is a potential 25K available for road management
      * Tom will arrange with VLT for the committee to do a boundary walk
      * $5K available for consultant to Management Plant
  + The group discussed action items
    - Schedule a kick-off meeting
    - Meet with Vermont Land Trust
  + The group discussed other business
    - Newbury residents Rick and Emmy Hausmann have a family foundation (Hausmann Foundation) and they have indicated that President’s Day weekend 2019 the foundation would like to provide the labor and funding for a specific Tucker Mountain project.
    - Next meeting will be Feb 25th  at 6:30. Thereafter meetings will be 1st and 3rd Mondays.

Submitted by: Kathy Damon