**Tucker Mountain Town Forest Management Committee**

**What:** Minutes

**When:** February 25, 2019, 6:30-8:00 PM

**Who:** Tom Kidder- Co-Chair, Dianne Norton - Co-Chair, Kirk Morrison, Kathy Damon, John Nininger

* 6:40: Tom Kidder moved the meeting to order
* Dianne moved and Kirk seconded to accept the 2/11/2019 minutes with the following amendments:
  + The Housman Family foundation volunteer work will be Columbus Day 2019 (draft minutes indicated Presidents Day 2019)
  + Passed unanimously
* Kick Off Meeting with VLT March 4
  + Tom advised the group that the Vermont Land Trust will join the committee for the March 4 kickoff meeting. Bob Link, David McMath and Tracey Zschau from the VLT will be at the meeting.
* Amended Grant of Development Rights, Conservation Restrictions and Public Access Easement
  + The committee reviewed the conservation restrictions that are in the agreement negotiated between the VLT, the Leach family and the town.
    - Points of discussion for review of the management plan include the following:
      * The Tucker Mountain Class 4 road designation and the implications
      * The possibility of the lower log landing as a winter parking lot
      * The possibility of the upper log landing as a parking lot
      * ATV’s accessing Tucker Mountain Road and the road to the top
* Interim Management Plan
  + The committee reviewed the interim management plan and identified areas of focus
    - Preservation of the vernal pool
    - Maintenance of the scenic view and how this fits into the management plan.
    - Development of a forest management plan. There are currently 2 forest management plans on 2 different parcels, one for the 494 acre parcel which is due to be updated in 2020, and a newer one for the Ted and Debbie Leach parcel which needs to be updated in 2028. Both were prepared by forester Jeff Smith.
    - The need for sanitation facilities
    - The need for signage
    - The need for enforcement
    - Development of buffer zones between wet lands, brooks, habitat.
    - Clarification from VLT on roads and vehicular access. The ATV clause does not address cars/trucks.
    - Should motor vehicles be permitted to access the top?
    - Identify top parking lot location(s).
  + A forester will be invited to a future meeting.
  + Tom will review the interim management plan and mark it up for the beginning of the final management plan.
* Other Business
  + There is the possibility of a $5K grant for view clearing. Larry Minear will write the grant. The committee will need a couple of estimates for the clearing work.
    - Dianne moved and Kirk seconded to authorize the committee to seek the grant. Passed unanimously.
  + The committee discussed the organization of subcommittees. More detail discussion will occur at a future meeting. Immediate subcommittees may be the following
    - Wildlife and Habitat
    - Signage and Trail Planning
    - PR and dedication Event.
  + Tom will not be available for the April 1 meeting. He will ask Orange County Forester David Paganelli if he can be our guest April 1 to talk about his impressions of the property and answer questions about future logging, invasive species, wetlands, view clearing, wildlife, etc.
  + Kathy will not be available for the March 18 or the April 15 meeting.
* Kirk moved and Kathy seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:10. Passed Unanimously.

Submitted by: Kathy Damon