

## CANAAN COMMUNITY FOREST COMMITTEE

January 21, 2016

Present: Chris Masson, Yvan Doyon, Morgan Wade, Vernon Crawford, Noreen Labrecque and Odette Crawford.

Chairman Chris called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM. Chris told Noreen that an invoice is needed for the final payment of the Woodland Grant. Noreen will provide. Noreen asked for the Woodland Grant file in order to complete her paperwork. This grant was given to the Town. Morgan and Chris will review the income/expenses for the Woodland Grant to determine the balance.

Odette asked if the invoices that Eugene Reid had mentioned at the last meeting were still outstanding and Chris answered that the money had been transferred to the school and the school had paid them. Chris made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2015 meeting, Yvan seconded and motion was approved.

Vern spoke about the PILOT that the CFC had discussed making to the town: in 2014 the CFC gave \$3000 and had offered to give \$2000 in 2015 and \$1000 in 2016. No money has yet been given towards 2015 and Vern on behalf of the Select Board asked if the CFC would reconsider that plan. Vern said that if funds were generated either from selling sap or from leasing the maple trees, couldn't some of that go to PILOT? Discussion followed on means of generating revenue: the land had just recently been logged and that is not scheduled for cutting for another 10+/- years. The Diversified Ag class will be boiling this year but because there is no RO equipment, and approximately 500 trees will be tapped, the general consensus was that for this first year we shouldn't expect revenues from that. Yvan suggested that leasing the trees is the first and best choice for the CFC. Odette suggested that the Diversified Ag students could perhaps plan to give back a percentage of their earnings to the Community Forest. Chris said he would work with Chris Brady on developing that as part of a business plan for the class. Odette suggested that the CFC make the \$2000 payment for 2015 and plan on \$2000 for 2016 and that combined with either the leasing of trees or selling of sap, the potential for revenue generating activities would help.

Chris made a motion to contribute \$2000 for 2015 and 2016 and that the CFC would re-visit the issue prior to Town Meeting 2017. Morgan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Yvan said that line setting and preparation work for maple production happens during the summer so Chris said that he will have a proposed RFP for the committee to review at the March meeting.

Waterline Project: Chris summarized that the Town needs an easement across Mike Daley's land in order to install the new water tank. Mike has a problem with the current school traffic going by his house which is close to the road and will not grant an easement until such time as a legal solution is agreed upon. Over the past years several possibilities have been mentioned. Most recently Vern, Chris and Dan Kilborn of the VT Land Trust, did a walk / review of the trail from the northern entrance landing yard to the camps. Mike had said that he would research an idea for acquiring a piece of land from the Carrier family. Mike is currently on vacation and it's not known whether he's completed his proposed research. Noreen and Vern stressed that the entire Water Project is being delayed and that Canaan citizens are being held hostage because this issue is not yet resolved. After much discussion it was agreed that when Mike returns from vacation, Vern and Chris will schedule a meeting and they'll review specifically the possibility of relocating the right-of-way away from Mike's house and still be on Daley

property, and that they would try to get a preliminary agreement in writing. It was repeated that time was of the essence with this issue.

Because Eugene Reid was absent, Chris related that the walls on the sugar house are up and being closed in and that the students are planning to have 500 taps set for spring boiling.

Odette mentioned that at our next meeting in March, Eugene (town member) and Vern (ex officio Select board) are up for election and we've been doing staggered 3 year terms.

On a motion by Morgan and seconded by Yvan, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Odette Crawford  
Clerk