

CANAAN COMMUNITY FOREST COMMITTEE

May 25, 2016

Present: Yvan Doyon, Greg Noyes, Eugene Reid, Morgan Wade, Chris Masson and Odette Crawford.

Eugene made a motion and Morgan seconded, to approve the minutes from the January 21, 2016 meeting.

Because no meeting was held in March, the committee presented the members and their terms up for vote: Eugene Reid representing a 'resident with the time and interest to participate fully' and Vernon Crawford representing 'the Select board in an ex officio capacity'. Both positions are for a 3 year term of 2016 – 2019. Morgan suggested that the committee review and change the Bylaws so that the Select board representative is given a vote. Morgan made a motion and Chris seconded to elect both Eugene and Vernon to the Committee. It was also added that Greg Noyes could represent the Select Board as proxy. The committee voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Chris handed out the 2016-2017 meeting schedule, Eugene made a motion to accept it as presented and Yvan seconded, motion approved unanimously.

Review of Financials: Nothing was presented from Noreen/Morgan, but Chris mentioned that from June 2015 to date, electricity costs were approximately \$600. It was agreed that the electric bill will be signed off by two people, and Chris and Odette have been doing that on a monthly basis. Morgan said that she would make certain to pay the \$2000 PILOT to the Town as agreed.

Chris submitted a memo to the Committee saying that the entire \$50,000 Working Woodlands grant has been received. \$45,000 was transferred to the School District and \$5000 should be in the Community Forest account with the Town. The Town spent \$5794.54 on concrete for the sugarhouse and the Game of Logging. It was recommended to have Noreen invoice the Canaan School district for the \$794.54 spent beyond the \$5000 received. This was agreed and it was also agreed to leave the balance (\$2,722.90) in the account for a future Game of Logging.

Chris shared the April 8th, 2016 letter from Dan Kilborn of the Vermont Land Trust. The letter was Dan's review of the Town's request to locate a municipal water tank and associated water lines on the protected property of the Community Forest. Dan's review concludes that "the project will have minimal impact to the features that the conservation easement seeks to protect, VLT was able to approve this municipal use on the protected property".

The committee then continued with discussion about the easement and road access to the proposed water tank and the existing road that runs by Michael Daley's home. Negotiations between the Town and Mike have been busy during the month of May and a Warranty Deed of Easement and 'An Agreement' were signed by both Mike and the Town on May 23rd, 2016. Greg explained that the Community Forest would not be paying for any new road construction, enlargement or moving of the existing road. Chris had obtained two estimates, one from Yves Marquis Trucking LLC. (\$17,950.) and an estimate from Cunningham Logging, LLC (\$9500.) Chris said that he would stay in the loop with Greg on this, and because the Forest Committee will not be funding the road work, Morgan suggested that the committee move on to the next item in the Agenda.

The committee then discussed the memo Chris had written, May 25, 2016, 'An Update on the Maple Sugaring Operation'. Eugene said that the school program did really well, that the equipment we had worked better than expected and that the students ended up with approximately 63 gallons of syrup to sell retail. Chris thought that syrup sales might yield between 3 and 4 thousand dollars. The land and trees are supplied by the Community Forest / Town, the equipment and sugarhouse are supported by grants to both the Town and School District, and the labor was provided by students and the School District, for these reasons the committee felt that making a decision on what to do with this amount of money was premature. Eugene Reid made a motion and Morgan seconded, to wait until next years' syrup run and to keep the money generated this year, segregated in the Principal's Fund. This was approved unanimously.

Chris handed out copies of the Community Forest Benefits flyer and a page 1 photograph included the Canaan Game of Logging participants.

Chris mentioned that he had met with the new leader of the Quebec Tillotson Forest group and all the activities and projects that they'd been working on, including 25 miles of mountain bike trails, they discussed that they'd had problems with moose hunters and all in all Chris said the discussion was a great international experience and had good potential for future possibilities.

Last but not least, Chris handed out the new / correct 911 address for the Sugar House: 660 Green Hill Road, Canaan.

Eugene made a motion to adjourn, Morgan seconded. Meeting ended at 7:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Odette Crawford
Clerk