

## CANAAN COMMUNITY FOREST COMMITTEE

January 19, 2017

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

Chairman Chris opened the meeting at 6:13 PM. Eugene made a motion that was seconded by Morgan to accept the minutes from the May 25, 2016 meeting. Approved unanimously. Eugene made a motion that was seconded by Vernon to accept the minutes from the July 21, 2016 meeting. Approved unanimously.

Chris noted that no money was spent on trail maintenance during the summer months and that the Diversified Agriculture students and completed some of that type work during the fall.

Chris recounted that at our September 16, 2016 meeting, we didn't have a quorum, only Chris and Yvan were present, and that no minutes were taken. This meeting was an exchange of information with a few of the Columbia, NH Selectboard and 4 additional Columbia citizens who are interested in starting a community forest. Julie Evans was present and coordinated the discussion. The meeting lasted for approximately two hours.

Morgan presented the current Account Balance sheet as well as a Draft 2017 Budget that will be needed for the 2016 Town Report. During the budget review it was agreed to correct the Game of Logging amount to \$2700. The group agreed to keep \$1500 in for trails. Morgan noted that she would clean up the form and get it to Noreen for the Town Report. Chris said that he would speak to Chris Brady, Diversified Agriculture teacher, about getting the students to write up a brief summary of their student activities during the past year that involved the Forest.

The committee discussed that the 2016 Payment in Lieu of Taxes, \$2000, had not yet been paid and we spoke about what amount would be paid for 2017. The committee agreed that fund raising efforts should include the students –and sale of maple syrup- as well as townspeople. Vernon and Greg mentioned that the fund raising activities that the Recreation Park organizes usually generate good participation as well as the volunteer work sessions. The committee agreed that this would be an appropriate method of generating funds as well as service, and definitely preferred to using our grant money as source of PILOT payments. Morgan made a motion that the 2017 PILOT payment be in the amount of \$2000, Eugene seconded the motion. Approved unanimously. Morgan will ask Noreen to prepare a warrant for both years / payments.

Chris told the committee that the Tillotson Anniversary Celebration that was held in October was very well attended. Chris Brady gave horse and wagon rides and a good time was had by all.

Chris had applied for a \$5000 grant from the VT Community Foundation and we were notified in December that we had received \$2500. It was agreed that these funds will be used for cleaning up the land near the building as well as some work on the parking area. Eugene said that he favored allowing Chris authority to be creative with those funds and to take advantage of opportune moments in hiring people to do that work. The committee agreed.

Odette mentioned that paperwork was at the Attorney's office in relation to getting the deed prepared that would enable the road agreement Mike Daley, the Town and Denise Carrier.

Chris had shared the following documents with the committee: Maple Sugaring on State Lands, Agency of Natural Resources, VT Department of Forests , Parks and Recreation: a Maple Sugaring License Application and a link to Guidelines and Licensing Requirements for Tapping and Collecting Sap from Maple Trees on Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation Lands. After review and discussion it was agreed Chris would ask Matt Langlais to assist us with the process / idea of leasing out taps; of writing an RFP for that, and to attend the March 16, 2017 with the goal of laying out a plan and procedures for us to review and accept.

Chris and Yvan agreed to start the process of purchasing a Reverse Osmosis unit so that hopefully it could be put to use with this spring's run.

Other Business: Odette mentioned that at our March meeting, Chris' term will expire as will hers. Odette told the committee that she will not seek another term; Chris said that he will continue to serve. Vernon noted that he would like to continue to serve, but that his term as Selectman is expiring and he is not running for re election. The committee agreed to try and present new members for the March meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Odette Crawford  
Clerk