

MTFC Meeting Minutes from August 5th

Members present: Jaime, Callie, John

Members absent: Mark, Pete

Community Events - Thursday 9th Sept. 7-9pm, Saturday 11 Sept. 11am-1pm. Both are open house events.

Discussed the event format. Can get the easels used at some previous town events from Susan Mahony (Jaime to talk with Susan).

Need sign-in sheets to use across both days

See if we can print a larger version of the map on page 3 of the Town Plan as a reference in the room.

- Jaime to ask John Mejia, Callie to check with Regional Planning, John to ask Bill Martin. It is possible that the Planning Commission has the PDF also and possible that it has already been printed and is somewhere at the Town Hall.

Event Intro – first 10-15 minutes

- What is the Town Forest initiative about (as called for in the Town Plan)
- Purpose of this community input event
- Mention that we are using guidance from VT UCF?
- Establish ground-rule: all activities in the Town Forest must be compatible with the long-term health of the forest. Not all desired/popular uses will be suitable on all pieces of land.
- Describe the five easel stations and the comment form
- Q&A

Event flow

- Sign-in sheet - would continue it for the Saturday event to catch anyone who comes to both.
 - o Give each person some stickers/dots when they sign-in (determine how many to give each person).
 - o Give them a flyer with the same info as the in-person intro (especially good if they came late and is something for them to take home).
- Have a Town Forest Committee member at each station (may need a couple of reliable helpers or to manage two adjacent easels).
- Need an approach to capturing feedback on the boards – write on easel paper? Write the item on a piece of construction paper and tape it to the board?
 - o Be sure to add everything suggested to the board (their voice was heard). Could steer it a bit into an existing category if acceptable.
- Provide a table/clipboards/etc. to fill out a comment form if interested and drop it in the box.

Advertising

- Need to post announcements to FB and FPF.
- In the announcements include a reference/link to the Values Mapping PDF and to the Monkton's Ecological landscape (Eric Sorensen) recording. Those would be good homework for attendees before coming to our event. Discussed how to concisely review/present the Values Mapping results, but too difficult to do in the context of this event. It will need to be a supporting item online that we can refer to.
- Create a printed flyer describing the same info as the event intro (w/email for questions). What is this all about, etc. Can hand that to people who arrive after the in-person intro.

Anticipate Frequently Asked Questions

- Tax implications of a town forest
- Up front cost to the taxpayers?
- When will we have a town forest?
- Can use ARPA funds?
- Where will the forest be located?
- Etc.

Discussed five easel stations and agreed to have a few initial topics up on the board to seed the process. We would plan to continue the easels from one session to the next to build on it and have an overall picture.

Recreation

Hiking, Fishing, Cross-Country Skiing, Birding/Wildlife Watching

Education

Invasives, Game of Logging, Species ID

Natural Resources

Forest Blocks, Habitat Connectivity, Wildlife, Water Quality

Forest Products

Lumber/Logs, Wood Bank, Sugaring

Other (Only topics that don't fit elsewhere)

No initial topics on this board

The comment form would be for more verbose feedback from individuals.

Agreed we should keep the regularly scheduled MTFC meeting on Thursday 8/19 at 7pm to finalize planning and keep action items moving.

Action Items w/owners:

- Easels (Jaime to work with Susan Mahony)
- Possibility of printing a larger version of the town map on Page 3 of the Town Plan (Jaime to ask John Mejia, Callie to look into getting the PDF file from Regional Planning, John to find out if Bill Martin could help).
- Jaime to get the links posted on the Conservation Commission page for Values Mapping and for the Monkton's Ecological Landscape presentation by 8/8, to help with advertising. Note: Jaime is away 8/8 - 8/15.

Action Items not yet assigned. Need owners/volunteers:

- Create the talking points for the in-person intro.
- Create the online posting and flyer content.
- Advertising - post about the events on FB and FPF and ask that interested folks also review the Values Mapping PDF and watch the Monkton's Ecological Landscape presentation if they missed it.
 - o Most urgent item is advertising, but we somehow did not get it owner(s). Jaime can assist after 8/15, but it should start before then.
- Develop a sign-in sheet for the event
- Create a form to capture comments from the public
- Determine what supplies are needed (paper, markers, etc.)
- Determine intro and flyer content, write a draft.

Regarding the parcel of interest... John will connect with the owner again. Assess their actual interest. Appraisal would be a logical step.