**Stranahan Forest Stewardship Committee**

**Draft Minutes**

**8/22/2017**

Date: 8/22/2017

Time: 6:00-7:40 PM

Place: Old Schoolhouse Common

Present: Rich Phillips, Sarah Fowler, Brett Engstrom, Michael Sabourin, Ellen Cooke

Conservation Committee Rep: Ed Jalbert

No public present

Minutes approved from 6/27/2017

Approval of the cost of map printing: Rich will ask Jenny to email a copy of maps to the printer. Brett suggested to reformat to a smaller size. He also agreed to get the file from the regional planning office and contact Emma Tait to see if she is interested in doing the formatting. The proposed reformatting will be reviewed by the Committee before being finalized by Emma

Purchase of Brush cutter: the committee agreed to investigate the purchase a brush cutter for trail work. Brett and Ed will look into what is the most appropriate tool for our needs and its cost

Project updates: The committee was awarded the grant, however had yet to hear from the grantor concerning next steps The grantor’s hope to contact the committee by September 2017.

Management Plans: The committee discussed compiling a list of highlights from the 5 town plans. It was decided that each member would complete a list of pertinent highlights from the five plans that might be usable in our update. A suggestion was made for each member to review our plan and highlight areas of concern that need to be reconsidered for editing ie: recreation description, habitat. It is important to articulate objectives, goals and desired activities. It was decided that after these reviews were documented by each member they would be put aside temporarily to be used in the update of the plan under the guidance of the grant contractor.

Property Markers: Brett has been in contact with VOS signs. 500 markers @ .77 cents. A motion was made and passed to purchase 500 not to exceed $425.

Trail Markers: Rich will email Rain for and update.

Trail Maintenance: Ellen gave a trail update. Ed agreed to clear down tees from High Ridge Trail and the Hollister Hill Parking area.

Parking lot update: Rich reported that Danny had roughed in the entrance to the parking area and made a gravel parking area off the side of Jake Martin Road opposite the proposed parking area. The town has issued a memo reiterating that any work by the road crew must be first approved by the Select Board and is subject to the availability or road crew workload. Rich will attend the next meeting of the Select Board to see when the parking area might be scheduled.

Kiosk update: Ellen will speak with Trevor Tait about estimated time of completion and the potential for Twinfield students participating in trail maintenance.

Invasive species update: The committee discussed mowing knotweed 3x’s in the early summer to mitigate the invasion into the moon field log landing.

Bike Trail update: Brett suggests the access from the Jake Martin Rd. parking lot to Kate’s boundary be resolved. We discussed the bike club use the existing trails and then reviewing the impact on the trails before new ones are built. We discussed the latest informal club proposal to not build the trail from the new Parking Area to Uncle Maple skirting the Moon Field and instead building the trail proposed earlier to the west of Thompson Road. It was decided to ask Club representatives to our 9/26 meeting

Meeting adjourned: 7:40 pm