

Attendance:

Dianne Chadderdon

Tracy Zschau

Joe Fox

Chad Whitehead

Luke ???? - department of forest and recreation - willing to help out

James Sweeney

need a full list from someone who was in the room.

follow up to property walk

* parking lot - timing / planning needs to be sorted, particularly in terms of site being ready to support increased usage

* trails - accessibility, sustainability, expansion

Step one - map it

General discussion of what trails exist, what low hanging fruit for initial improvements

* mapping / inventory

Luke is willing to help. Can be done one of multiple ways.

Once it is mapped, we'll need to name and define routes.

"Existing conditions inventory" - for grant proposals, we'll need more than just the trails. We need to document other aspects and features, including wetlands, historic structures, boundaries and setbacks.

* land use / concerns

What do we want to do with the meadow? Lease it for pasture? Reforest it?

If current trails see much more traffic, they'll become trenches.

brief discussion of the hunting regulation on the knob

funding discussion

* Two major relevant grants on the immediate timeline. Others might be available longer term. Two discussed in depth - VOREC and USDA NRCS

* VOREC - St.J isn't applying to a VOREC grant this round. StJ is beyond capacity for outdoor rec projects. Northern Forrest Center - if they're eligible, they're willing to do something more overarching. It would entail putting together a masterplan that covers the knob, the town forrest, works with dog mountain. This is a reimbursement grant.

* USDA NRCS - specifically focused on mitigation soil erosion. The application is due next week. This is also a reimbursement grant.

* Luke brought up a different grant - ??? asked - does this group have a vision for what they want the knob to be in 5 years? Other longer time horizon grants are available.

* Discussion of VOREC - grant realities, classes, structure and history.

* Discussion of NRCS - Focusing on the knob, this grant is a good size. Requires us to make the case for the trails being built to mitigate soil erosion. Current round is looking to be undersubscribed. It could be worth putting it together post haste. Due on the 17th. Also has impacts from the town side of things, both in terms of management and how it would handle the reimbursable nature of the grant. This would free up town funds to deal with less sexy things, like the parking lot, other implementation, planning and maintenance.

Professional resource discussion