Anacortes Community Forest Lands Advisory Board
January 9, 2020
6pm
1701 22nd Street (Senior Activity Center)
Preliminary Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Approve Minutes
3. Public Comments
4. Communication/Correspondence
5. Staff Reports
6. Other Business

If reasonable accommodation due to a disability is needed
contact Mac Jackson at 360-293-1918
48-hours prior to the meeting date.
ACFL Forest Advisory Board Minutes
December 5, 2019

Members Present: Sandra Starbuck, JoAnn York-Gilmore & Brian Wetcher
Staff: Bob Vaux, Steve Phillips and Jonn Lunsford

Minutes: The date of November 7th was corrected. October minutes were approved as submitted.

Public Comments: Arlene Cook spoke on her disappointment of the bike skills course and that it is still a project. She is grateful for asphalt on Ray Auld Drive.

Staff report: Bob reported that he is working with the Planning Commission and the Critical Areas Ordinance as it related to the Forest Lands. Discussed was the active/passive recreation and reformation of the ACFL Management Plan. There will be a public hearing on the Critical Areas Ordinance on December 18. There was discussion of the ACFL protection in regards to the Critical Areas Ordinance/Conservation Easement Program/ACFL Management Plan and the process of moving forward. The Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan will be reviewed on December 16th by Council.

Discussion of Ebikes: Current policies in the ACFL were discussed, as well as points brought forward at the November meeting. Discussion ensued over the bike styles, technology advancements, current restrictions and caution of becoming a destination. It was decided to maintain the current use restrictions and have ebikes follow the motorcycle rules in regards to trails allowed and dates of use.

Other Business: Sterling Collins-Hill with the Pacific Northwest Trail Association (PNWTA) stated that they would like to be a partner and run crews of young adults to work with trail maintenance. The west end of 23rd to Deception Pass via Tursi Trail was discussed. Sterling’s background is trail maintenance and unification of existing trails where possible. Bob mentioned that this was a discussion that was visited in the 1990’s.

Please note that the next meeting of the Anacortes Forest Board will be on January 9, 2020 - 6:00 at the Anacortes Senior Activity Center.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:20pm

Respectfully submitted: Jonn Lunsford
Report for the January 2020 Forest Advisory Board Meeting

Bob Vaux, Assistant Director, Anacortes Parks & Recreation

The first meeting of 2020 continues to hone our staff ACFL Management transition from Jonn Lunsford to me. I am honored to return to the ACFL in this capacity, and will work hard to make sure I am continuing the excellent work of Jonn over these last 19 years, and also help Steve Philips continue his transition into our ACFL maintenance lead.

We are very excited to announce the enhanced development of the City’s work and partnership with the Samish Indian Nation. Denise Crowe is the new Education Program Manager for the Samish, and has support from her leadership to work with our staff in the ACFL. We are looking forward to Denise developing our forest strengths with her decades of Fidalgo Island naturalist expertise, and finely tuning our historic sense of place passing along Samish wisdom and sensibility from the ages.

As Steve mentioned in his report, we are working on our dam inspection and maintenance protocol at Little Cranberry. This involves some typical paper pushing and making sure our field work is consistent with the State’s requirements. Our biggest goal is the safety of our downstream neighbors. We continue to take this responsibility very seriously.

Friends of the Forest Executive Director Asa Deane, Jonn and I held our monthly meeting; keeping our lines of communication open and continuing our shared goals of protection as well as education.

Thanks to Steve for getting our 2020 volunteer work party schedule ramped up.

I have enjoyed taking some time off here at the end of 2019, and as is often the case, find myself wandering along the magical pathways of the ACFL with my family. I am very grateful for these woods, as a community member and staffer. I look forward to working with all of you in the New Year.

Faithfully Submitted,

Bv /December 31, 2019
Violations
Two coworkers and I returned to the camp (in the vicinity of Trail 312) described in last month’s report to decommission it. Fortunately, the person had vacated, but by no means left no trace. The three of us removed two large tarps of items ranging from cookware to sleeping pads and chairs. The camp had been fortified in many places with wire to secure branches together. Rocks had been arranged and piled in various places. Two trees had ropes secured high up in them: one that had been used as a rope swing and the other for reasons unclear to me. What I’d best describe as a scaffolding had been created with wire and branches, probably to make ascension into the canopy easier. Several young cedars had been cut in the vicinity for use in the camp’s various features. This was disheartening.

I painted over some graffiti at the former mineshaft “Bat Cave” on the east side of Little Cranberry Lake. I also repaired the split-rail fence at this location and added to it slightly to attempt to discourage people from walking around it.

I replaced a few more “Dogs must be on Leash” signs. The updated one (attached) has current fine information from the Anacortes Police Department. It is nearly a daily occurrence for me to encounter someone with an off-leash dog.

Motorbike use is prohibited from November 1 through March 1, but riders continue to violate this rule. I saw fresh tracks as recently as today in the Whistle Lake vicinity.

I decommissioned another small camp with a rock/tarps/sticks shelter and firepit that was not far off trail 220. It appeared to have been abandoned at least a few months ago.

The same day, I was shocked to find a small baggie of a crystalline substance on 220. It was unaccompanied by paraphernalia. When I brought it to the Anacortes Police Station, they confirmed that it was methamphetamine.

Compliance
I have been getting up to speed on the dam inspection and water quality sampling protocols that Dave maintained throughout his tenure.

I have been making daily checks of our “Beaver Deceiver” at the 32nd street wetland to ensure that it is functioning properly.

With help from another Park Maintenance Worker, I placed boulders at the end of 32nd street to prohibit vehicles from driving on and parking in the federally designated wetland that exists here.

Trails – Drainage, erosion, bridges, fallen trees
There were many fallen trees blocking trails. I am caught up as of the writing of this report, but wind and wet soils set the stage for more of them to appear.

Now that we’ve had decent rain, drainage issues on trails are expressing themselves. Most can be addressed on the spot with a Mcleod, but others will involve special materials and extra hands.
I have been able to spend enough shop time now to catch up on sharpening chainsaw chains for the Parks Department’s various saws. The Street Department lent me their bench sharpener, which makes the job easier and faster.

I have been raking leaves off some bridges, as I encounter them, to improve their safety and longevity.

Invasive Species
I discovered and hand-pulled two Buddleja (butterfly bush) individuals in the burn area at Little Cranberry Lake. I assume there are more, but didn’t have time for a comprehensive search.

I have now seen three Cotoneaster individuals in the broad area of forest south of Heart Lake, on both sides of Heart Lake Road. These are a priority to remove.

I am getting a feel for locations to bring volunteers to help with invasive removal. These are primarily Scotch broom, English ivy, Himalayan blackberry, Spurge Laurel, and Holly. I have a few maps from Dave Oicles, but welcome public input on occurrences as well.

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<tr>
<th>English ivy</th>
<th>Hedera helix</th>
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Miscellaneous Good News
Bob and I had the pleasure of going for a hike with Denise Crowe, our Trail Committee Naturalist. She pointed out many plants that were new to me, and one familiar “friend” that I had known from the Bay Area: Yerba Buena, a perennial mint that hugs the ground. This was the first of many, I hope, hikes together in the ACFL.

The third ACFL access point in two months has been paved. Last month, I reported the paving of Ray Auld Drive and part of Whistle Lake Road. In early December, the steepest portion of the road to Little Cranberry Lake was paved. This is a significant improvement.

About 150 common mergansers have taken up residence of Heart Lake. Let’s hope they hang around all winter!

We have set the following public work party dates: Sat. Feb 8, 9am-11am; and Sat, April 25, 9am-11am. I have also coordinated with Fidalgo Trail Riders to set two spring work party dates. Scopes of work for both work parties are TBD, and I will communicate these plans to the Trail Committee as they develop.
DOGS MUST BE ON LEASH

At all times when in the Forest Lands and within City of Anacortes limits.

City of Anacortes Municipal Code 6.04.100

1st Offense: $100 fine
2nd Offense: $250 fine
3rd Offense: $500 fine
4th Offense: Mandatory Court hearing