



**ANACORTES PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

**P.O. BOX 547, ANACORTES, WA 98221  
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**GARY ROBINSON, DIRECTOR**

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**Anacortes Community Forest Lands Advisory Board  
December 6, 2018  
Preliminary Agenda**

1. Call to Order
2. Approve Minutes
3. Public Comments
4. Communication/Correspondence
5. Staff Reports
6. Upcoming projects/events 2019
7. Other Business

**If reasonable accommodation due to a disability is needed  
contact Russ Pittis at 293-1918  
48-hours prior to the meeting date.**

# ACFL Forest Advisory Board Minutes

November 1, 2018

**Members Present:** Carolyn Moulton, Aaron Rasmussen & Marty Laumbattus.

**Staff:** Dave Oicles & Jonn Lunsford

**Minutes:** The minutes of the October meeting were approved.

**Public Comments:** None

**Correspondence and Communication:** Parks Board discussed Gary Robinson's departure as the Parks & Recreation Director. A director of an independent horror movie was possibly looking at filming some scenes in Anacortes Parks or the ACFL. They decided on locations outside of Anacortes.

**Staff report:** Dave updated the Board on two anchors he found at Whistle Lake. People had tied long lines to an anchor, in one case a bag of rocks and connected that to a log or bottle on the surface. Dave suspects people were tying off to that with their rafts during the summer. Dave also discussed cedar mortality and his conversations with Ben Thompson from the Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR).

Jonn discussed the work going on with Transition Fidalgo and Friends about the citizen science project they are working on with the City.

**ACFL Project Update:** Staff is still working on permitting and design for the beaver deceiver outflow at 32<sup>nd</sup> Street and have hired a new consultant to take on the task of wetlands delineation. Barring an emergency it looks like the replacement for the will be in 2019.

**Other Business:** None.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40pm. Respectfully submitted: Jonn Lunsford

November seemed a bit unseasonal, with warmer and sunnier days than what you would expect. We did have a couple of rain events, but lake levels and wetlands are still low. A windstorm at the end of the month kept me quite busy running the chainsaw with lots of downed trees on the trails. Currently I am conducting my annual trail inspections, looking for hazards, inspecting bridges, and checking for signage needs. I am still noticing tree mortality throughout the ACFL during my trail inspections. Areas that had a full tree canopy are now getting lots of sunlight down to the forest floor. I think that is what is catching my eye most... there's a lot more sunshine out there. My successes this month include:

- Downed trees and hazard trees were removed off trails 220, 309, 28, 218, 28, 10, 20, 27, 118, 107, 249, 311, 304, 21, 313, 240, 312, 320, 305, 101, 121, 212(3), 10(2), 106, 123(2), 121(2), 101, 118(2), 128(3), 109, 129(3), 115(3), 218, 28, 27, 21, 100, and 209. Most of these trees were dead alders and willows, but a few were large Doug Firs and Cedar. Thank you to Jim from Parks Department for removing a dead old growth tree off 320 while I was on vacation.
- The beaver deceiver at 32<sup>nd</sup> swamp was heavily clogged up and was cleaned out on Nov 1<sup>st</sup>.
- A section of trail 220 at south bridge was repaired with gravel and log removal.
- I spent many hours sharpening chainsaws and extra chain, getting ready for winter winds.
- The toilets at LCL and at the top of Mt Erie have been removed for the winter months.
- All 15 miles of trail around Little Cranberry Lake were inspected this month. I am currently inspecting the trails around Heart Lake.
- The barricade we put up along trail 118 near the wolf compound was completed found removed on November 20<sup>th</sup>, while I was doing trail inspections. The following day I spent 5 hours rebuilding the barricade to prevent people from "accidentally" hiking into the wolf compound. If you know who removed the barricade please contact the Parks Department or dial 911 and report this crime.
- Other projects outside ACFL include hauling 7 tons of gravel via wheel barrel to the disc golf course at Rotary Park to improve the tee-off boxes, pruned 2 oak trees (one at the library and one at Causeland), and removed a large dying Doug Fir at Storvik Park.
- For December I would like to schedule a day for the Trail Committee to look at the issues on trail 207 and 226 that Board Member Carolyn reported this summer, and see what kind of solution we can come up with. I will also be conducting trail inspections at Whistle Lake.

HAPPY TRAILS!

## Anacortes Community Forest Lands Report

Jonn Lunsford

November 2018

**Time Change:** Please remember, ACFL Advisory Board meetings start at 6pm.

**Forest Monitoring Project:** The forest monitoring project with Transition Fidalgo and Friends is still in the development stage. The advisory board is planning to meet in early 2019 to discuss scope of work. Ideas have ranged from possible study of forest health and lake health to better understand early implications of climate change. I was part of a presentation led by Jack Hartt (former Deception Pass State Park Manager) and Denise Crowe. There were many questions about tree mortality on our island. Here are some good links on that topic:

[http://forestry.wsu.edu/nps/newsletter/2018\\_july/](http://forestry.wsu.edu/nps/newsletter/2018_july/)

<https://dnrtreelink.wordpress.com/2018/07/03/emerging-issues-with-western-hemlock-and-douglas-fir/>

**ACFL Projects:** We are working on necessary wetlands delineations and at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Street swamp. I expect to meet with our consultants in December as we continue the permitting for the beaver deceiver replacement. The goal of the work we are doing is to protect the beavers by maintaining the historic water level in the swamp so they have a healthy habitat. I have found that if the city is actively keeping an eye on water levels, people are less inclined to lower water levels themselves out of concern over their private property.

**Tree City USA:** I have submitted our Tree City USA application with the National Arbor Day Foundation, this will be the city's 18<sup>th</sup> year as a tree city. Thanks to our tremendous volunteers we planted over 200 trees this year on the Guemes Channel Trail alone. We planted over a dozen new trees along the Thompson Trail and our new Arbor Day tree was planted at the public library.

**Thanks to our volunteers:** Heading into the holiday season I wanted to thank all of the volunteers that help out in the ACFL throughout the year. Dave and his summer staff do a great job trimming trails and working hard to clear trails after storms. We get a lot of help from people who call in or email the location of downed trees. Thanks and happy holidays.