

## Following up re: Low Forest Committee<sup>Inbox</sup>



Wed, Sep 15, 10:23 PM (15 hours ago)

**Emily Shipman**

to Danielle

Hi Danielle,

I hope this finds you well.

I wanted to follow up on our conversation around expanding the mandate of the Low Forest Committee to also include the Newbury school forest. I think that is a great idea and I'd actually like to take it a bit further. To me it makes sense to think of the forests as means to an end; learning/teaching tools that will allow us to provide quality hands-on education and instill our shared values around land use, environmental conservation, science, etc. in youth. So rather than have the Committee focused on the forests, I propose that we have it be responsible for the Forest but convened around our goals for environmental education.

I would like to do the following:

- 1- Kick-off a community process of creating a shared vision > values > and action plan for environmental ed that brings together the school forests, school gardens, and school food as well as our Vo-Tech Sustainable Ag & Culinary Arts programs. Try to unify around a vision for what it means to raise the next generation of Vermonters- so land use, environmental ethos, food choices, etc. To do this I would start by engaging the current Committee, Kim Goode, Katie Cole, Randy Gawal, and others to talk about how to do this successfully.

1- Change the policy that outlines the mandate of the Low Forest Committee to be focused more around Environmental Education or "Forests, Food, and Farms". This isn't urgent but it would be helpful. I would love for this to happen sooner than later.

I am not sure I *need* Board permission to do part one, per se, but I would love your support and would like permission to apply for grants on behalf of the Low Forest Committee (OUUSD) to support the work. Specifically, I would like to apply for [this grant](#) next week. Are you okay with this?

I am more than happy to chat about this. I realize you are very busy so I don't want to take up a lot of your time.

Thanks so much,

Em