



Town of Ashland

MASSACHUSETTS

Ashland Town Forest Committee

Wednesday, March 8, 2023 ^{SEP} 7:00PM Meeting via Zoom

Agenda

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81880763645?pwd=MXIIR3RwY1Voak5VT1BMcEszZE40UT09>

Meeting ID: 818 8076 3645

Passcode: 484904

1. Approval of Minutes of February 8, 2023 meeting (Mike / Alok)
2. Expense submittals & Accounting Report (Cara)
3. Consideration of Rob St. Germain's request to join committee as an Associate Member (Brian M)
4. Introducing new associate member candidates: Denise Carroll, Rugved Rane, Thomas Caywood, Jacob Kasprzyk (Brian M)
5. Final Review and Adoption of Mission Statement - Draft Attached (Brian M)
6. Formation of sub committees
 - a. Forestry
 - b. Trails and Recreation
 - c. Education and Promotion
 - d. Land Acquisition Recommendations
7. Appoint Comprehensive Plan Project Committee Representative (Mike)
8. Bungalow Clean Up (Martin)
9. 2023 Public Programs – scheduling (Cara)
10. Projects and Updates Discussion (Brian F)
11. Newsletter and Annual Report

Future Meeting Dates: March 22, April 8

This is a public meeting. Citizen attendance is invited and encouraged. Because of the nature of the online meeting the chair may need to limit participation and commentary. This agenda is subject to change and includes those items reasonably anticipated to be discussed. Not all agenda items may, in fact, be discussed, and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted.



Town of Ashland

M A S S A C H U S E T T S

Ashland Town Forest Committee

Mission

The Ashland Town Forest Committee is a team of volunteers appointed by the Ashland Select Board, whose purpose is to preserve and protect the Town Forest as a habitat and open space for the benefit of current and future generations of the town's people.

Strategic Objectives

The Ashland Town Forest realizes its mission by:

- Enhancing the forest health, quality, and vitality
- Supporting passive recreational use of the forest while minimizing the negative impact on the ecosystem
- Maintaining and improving its trail system
- Promoting awareness and appreciation of the forest and its value to the town
- Providing opportunities to connect with and learn about nature
- Assisting in the acquisition of additional forest land

The Ashland Town Forest

The Ashland Town Forest is an approximately 650 acre parcel of contiguous land, roughly bounded by Winter Street, Cordaville Road, Oak Street and Oregon Road in Ashland, Massachusetts. The property adjoins the Cowassock Woods, a fifty-four acre parcel in Ashland and Framingham, managed by the Sudbury Valley Trustees.

The forest hosts a large diversity of hardwoods and coniferous tree species, sedges, and wildflowers and wetland species. Deer are abundant in the forest, and it is also home to coyotes, foxes and other small mammals. Turkeys, hawks, woodpeckers, blue birds, robins and other species of birds are commonly observed.

Today, the property serves as a valuable asset to the town and its people. Approximately ten miles of trails are maintained for passive recreational use such as hiking and mountain biking. Varieties of land and wetland flora and fauna provide numerous opportunities for educational offerings produced by the Town Forest Committee. Environmentally, the forest sequesters a significant amount of carbon dioxide, contributing to Ashland's net zero objectives. The very existence of quality open space such as the Town Forest enhances the quality of life and makes Ashland a more attractive place to reside.