



# Town of Ashland

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

### Town Forest Committee Minutes

Wednesday Jan. 11, 2023

Members Present: Martin Auger, Brian Forestal, Ed Hart, Cara Hulme, Mike Jones, Venkat Kakula, Brian McGrattan, Amol Rane, Rob St. Germain

Members Absent: None

Public Present: None

#### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

For the record, Mr. Rane has not yet been sworn in as a member so he will not be voting at this meeting.

Addition to Agenda: Quorum and Meeting Frame Work. With seven voting members, a majority is now four if all are present. If less than the seven voting members are present, a non-voting member can be assigned that spot to get to a quorum. In general, the best number of voting spots would be odd, not even. There was also a consensus that votes on significant or contentious issues would be delayed if there were a limited number of members attending.

1. Approval of Minutes of December 14, 2022 meeting: The Ashland Town Forest Committee (ATFC) reviewed and amended the meeting minutes of Dec. 14, 2022. A motion was made to approve the amended meeting minutes and seconded. The ATFC roll call vote was: Mr. Auger: YES, Mr. Forestal: YES, Ms. Hulme: YES, Mr. Jones: YES, Mr. McGrattan: YES, Mr. Rane: Not Signed In, Mr. St. Germain: Yes. The motion passed 6-0-0.

#### 2. Expense submittals & Accounting Report

Report not read and there were no questions.

3. Location numbering system: With a presentation of the options, main points in question were the number of markers at each intersection, the origin of their distance and the use of a decimal point. An intersection by intersection review was done, adding or removing markers. A motion was made by Mr. McGrattan to continue developing the map using distances as number points and two digits per marker plus the color indicator (example 'W17') and seconded by Mr. St Germain. The ATFC roll call vote was: Mr. Auger: YES, Mr. Forestal: YES, Ms. Hulme: YES, Mr. Jones: YES, Mr. McGrattan: YES, Mr. St. Germain: Yes. The motion passed 6-0-0. Mr. Auger will continue with the map with Mr. St Germain and Mr. McGattan adding distances. It will be reviewed at an up-coming meeting.

4. Shed access: It was stated that the shed currently has a backup system to enter if the batteries fail in the door lock system. If vandalized or in other ways damaged, it was felt that the door could still be open and then repaired. Mr. Forestal and Mr. Hart reviewed the shed architecture to see if a side or center mounted garage door opener would function per our last meeting. They felt that a center mounted unit would work with minimal reduction of access to the rest of the loft. A center area would have to be constructed for mounting. The side mounted unit would be more expensive and had its own mounting problems. A motion was made by Mr. Forestal to purchase two garage door openers, supplies not to exceed \$600.00 and seconded by Mr. Jones. The ATFC roll call vote was: Mr. Auger: YES, Mr. Forestal: YES, Ms. Hulme: YES, Mr. Jones: YES, Mr. McGrattan: NO, Mr. St. Germain: NO. The motion passed 4-2-0.

5. ATF Mission Statement & Charge to the Committee: The draft was reviewed concentrating on the last point of the document. 'Assisting in the acquisition of additional forest land'

- "Be active in the acquisition of additional abutting forest land."

was one suggested change. The proposal was tabled with a request that any comments/suggestions be sent to Mr. St. Germain

6. 2023 Programs: Not discussed

7. FY2024 budget: Not discussed

8. Map post a new junction of BCT & Green Trail south of Loc 18: Not discussed

9. Newsletter and Annual Report: Not discussed

10. Projects and Updates Discussion: Not discussed

### **Motion to Adjourn**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting and was seconded. The ATFC roll call vote was: Mr. Auger: YES, Mr. Forestal: YES, Ms. Hulme: YES, Mr. Jones: YES, Mr. McGrattan: YES, Mr. St. Germain: Yes. The motion passed 6-0-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Future Meeting Dates: January 25, and Feb. 8, 2023