



# Town of Ashland

## MASSACHUSETTS

### Ashland Town Forest Committee (ATFC)

#### Minutes

January 14, 2026

Member	Role	Present	Absent
Brian Forestal (BF)	Member	YES	
Cara Hulme (CH)	Co-Chair	YES	
Ed Hart (EH)	Associate member	YES	
Mike Jones (MJ)	Co-Chair	YES	
Rob St. Germain (RSG)	Treasurer	YES	
Mary Panda	Member	YES	
John DeRosa	Associate member		x
Sunil Krishnamurthy	Associate member	YES	
Anna Getman	Associate member		x
Colin Large	Public Present		
Walter Carmichael	Public Present		

## Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at **7:01**

Walter Carmichael, a boy scout was present with his mother – and is interested on working on a project to be completed before 18<sup>th</sup> May 2027 (before his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday). He has also built a little library at the safety building as a project. Some ideas floated around for Walter’s project – 1) Stone to be spread at the new parking lot on Winter street (Walter was part of the troop that did the main lot) after the ground softens in Spring (Possible funds to be raised by Walter for refreshments); Another project is for Deer enclosures; One other is possibly a bridge project down the Winter street trail further along – Cara will forward funding info; Another is updating/refilling map posts with new maps

#### 1. Approval of Minutes of 1-14-2026

- Minutes Approved 5-0-0
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## 2. Expense Submittals & Accounting Report updates:

### Part A

Expense for the post for the kiosk – 4x4s total of \$40.50 – approved 5-0-0  
Ed completed doors on Kiosk + Plexiglass + Hinges – total of 132.44 – approved 5-0-0  
Fee of \$149.99 for getting Buggy back (previously approved)  
Balance remaining on the budget of 1484.84– 915.16 spent  
\$474...left in the Program budget

### Part B

As part of Town Meeting we received \$40K –

- \$750 spent for Donnelley appraisal fee;
- Initial Hildreth appraisal was initially paid
- Part of the Donnelley donation, was to get it surveyed – amount \$7620
- by Town Managers office \$750 for a second appraisal
- Survey on the Old Road \$6,940

\$24,690 left in that grant

When Mr. Hildreth passes, we will have to do another survey – expected cost \$12,310

\$3,150 reserved for appraisal on the 175 Oak Street property

## 3. UTV update:

Committee is reviewing options to replace the current batteries with Lithium batteries  
Rob, to see if the Buggy can be maintained at Keefe Tech – will update in the next meeting

## 4. Subcommittee reports and updates:

### - Forestry:

- Tree of Heaven treatment not yet discussed with Con Com – Cara still working on it
- American Trails Grants & resources – Cara suggested attending?
- Committee to keep an eye out for available grants
- Margareth Pittman bungalow plaque – Cliff from Historical society sent a final version of the write up – Motion to approve the final draft of the Margaret Pittman plaque and for Mike to reach out to Historical society for them to pay for the cost – passed 4-0-0.

### - Trails and Recreation:

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### - Education and promotion

- FLY project (Pollinator Garden along the power lines)- they plan to fundraise into March and then construct two plots along the power lines.
- Forest Bathing event scheduled for 05-30-26 with rain date of 05-31-26 (Participants to be encouraged to donate \$5 – with a note that all donations to go to Town Forest walks and programs

## 5. Land Acquisition:

No new update

6. **Other business:**

Goals for 2026

- Having a better meeting room
- UTV to be completed

1. Trails

- Trail maintenance
- Deer enclosure

2. Involvement of people

- Work projects
- Playhouse at the back of Heaps property to be removed
- Mike offered to take down the camera pointing into the forest (on forest property) and share with friends of the forest to see if someone lost a camera

3. Involvement with nature

- Chestnuts (Mr. Heaps)
- Deer enclosures
- Invasives

Motion to approve Colin Large as Associate Member – Passed 5-0-0

**Motion to adjourn the meeting 8:28pm - Passed 5-0-0**

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