



# Town of Ashland

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

### Town Forest Committee Minutes

Wednesday Jan. 25, 2023

Members Present: Martin Auger, Brian Forestal, Ed Hart, Cara Hulme, Mike Jones, Brian McGrattan and Amol Rane,

Members Absent: Venkat Kakula, Rob St. Germain\*

Public Present: None

#### Call to Order

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

1. Approval of Minutes of Jan. 11, 2023 Meeting: The Ashland Town Forest Committee (ATFC) reviewed and amended the meeting minutes of Jan. 11, 2023. 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: Yes: The motion passed 6-0-0.

2. Expense Submittals & Accounting Report; The DPW account was reviewed and a balance of \$899.77 was stated. A meeting will be set up with Mr. Small from DPW to talk about next year's budget.

3. Trail Maintenance Plan and Grant: It was stated that we had missed the deadline to submit a grant for a trail maintenance and replacement survey to be done by an outside vendor. Statements were made that as a group, we have the experience and knowledge to work on a plan of our own. It was also noted that an outside opinion could be useful. Ms. Hulme volunteered to review grant forms and if possible submit a grant request by deadline. Sub committees were discussed.

4. FY2024 Budget; Tabled for now.

5. ATF Mission Statement & Charge to the Committee: Mr. McGrattan sent out a revised mission statement. A motion was made to review and go forward with that mission statement framework, 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: Yes: The motion passed 6-0-0. The final version will be developed and voted on at a later date.

6. Location numbering system: Mr. Auger presented 4 or 5 map options. The second option was most popular (colored boxes). Trail heads would be numbered with a "0". The one trail with two trail heads would be "0.0" and "0." It was approved by consensus.

7. 2023 Public Programs: a review of last year's programs below:

- Sanctuary Walk (2 - summer and fall)
- Elf House (spring)
- Lantern Project and Story (fall)
- Invasive Walk (summer)
- Rain Garden Flower and Pollinator Photo Program (summer)
- Quarry Walk (fall)
- Mushroom Walk (summer)
- Stone Prayer Walk with Curtiss Hoffman (fall)
- Workshop: Barberry Removal (early spring)
- Workshop (2): Rain Garden Planting and Weeding (spring)
- Workshop (2): Tree Hole Digging and Tree Planting (spring)

It was felt that a series of spring, summer, fall and winter walks would be a good idea. Outside speakers would also be a draw. Cliff Wilson and Tom Wessel were mentioned. Comparing the tree canopy in Ashland to nearby communities was another program possibility.

8. Map post at new junction of BCT & Green Trail south of Loc 18: It was felt it was too close to Loc 17. A motion was made to install a map post at Loc 18. The ATFC roll call vote was: Mr. Auger: No, Mr. Forestal: No, Ms. Hulme: No, Mr. Jones: No, Mr. McGrattan: No, Mr. Rane: No: The motion defeated 0-6-0.

9. Projects and Updates Discussion:

Purple trail is 97.5% done. Mr. Forestal will finish in spring.

Rain garden trees will be pruned and tagged. Newly planted trees will be tagged and pruned.

It was felt that a Maintenance NOI should be put together. Ms. Hulme will talk to a ConCom member to start a conversation.

10. Newsletter and Annual Report Not reviewed.

**Future Meeting Dates: February 8, February 22**

### **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. Rane: Yes. The motion passed 6-0-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:56 pm.