



Town of Ashland

MASSACHUSETTS

Ashland Town Forest Committee (ATFC)

Minutes

February 11, 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 (MP)	Member	YES	
Sunil Krishnamurthy (SK)	Associate member		x
Anna Getman	Associate member		x
Colin Large	Public Present	x	
Jacqueline Ekins	Public present	x	

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at **7:03**

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

Minutes Approved 5-0-0

2. **Expense Submittals & Accounting Report updates:**

Expense for the cost of lamination for the new maps of the forest \$78.00

Approved 5-0-0

Balance in the account is \$1046.84

3. **UTV update:**

Rob spoke with someone at Keefe Tech regarding the lithium battery conversion and maintenance of the buggy and is waiting for a response. Two of the batteries are not working and Mike

proposed buying a device to monitor the voltage and load on the batteries with the cost of the device of no more than \$60

Approved 5-0-0

4. Trail camera policy

- The discussion about adding a rule to the current Town Forest regulations was postponed until the next meeting to allow time for further research into what other organizations have established.

5. Subcommittee reports and updates:

- Forestry:

- Tree of Heaven treatment not yet discussed with Con Com – Cara still working on it
- Margareth Pittman bungalow plaque
Awaiting the reply from the letter sent to the Historical Society regarding approval of the wording and cost of installing a plaque and post (Aluminum plaque \$362 and post \$50)

- Trails and Recreation:

- Working on boundary marking and updating the map posts need to be done once the weather improves
- Mike agreed to supervise Walter Carmichael on the spreading of stone at the new parking lot on Winter St. as part of his Eagle Scout project
- The UCC land needs some more posts and the plaque mounted on a rock. Rob and Ed will work on this task.

- Education and promotion

- FLY project (Pollinator Garden along the power lines)
No current updates
- Forest Bathing event scheduled for 05-30-26 with rain date of 05-31-26
Mary will work on a flyer for the event and present at the next meeting.

6. Land Acquisition:

To be discussed in executive session

7. Other business:

- Next meeting to be held at Town Hall -Meeting room B-C
- Snow removal was delayed in the parking lots after the last big snowstorm. If not plowed in a timely manner in the future, someone should contact the DPW as a reminder
- A letter documenting the minutes from an Ashland Town Forest meeting in the 1940s was found and given to the Ashland Historical Society. A request will be made to provide a copy to the committee.

- Louis Risoli, a local artist, has paintings of the Ashland Town Forest and has invited the committee to view them. Cara will email the information to committee members.

Future Meeting date: Tentatively March 11,2026

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