



Town of Ashland

MASSACHUSETTS

Town Forest Committee Minutes

March 22, 2023

Members Present: Martin Auger, Brian Forestal, Mike Jones, Brian McGrattan and Rob St Germain, Amol Rane

Members Absent: Ed Hart and Venkat Kakula,

Public Present:

Wednesday Call to Order 7:00 PM.

- 1 Approval of Minutes of March 8, 2023 meeting: The Ashland Town Forest Committee (ATFC) reviewed and amended the meeting minutes of March 8, 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, Mr. Jones: YES, Mr. McGrattan: YES, Mr. Rane: Yes. The motion passed 5-0-0.

- 2 Expense submittals & Accounting Report: None to review

- 3 Expiration of executive order permitting remote meetings (Brian)

The executive order permitting remote committee meetings is expiring on March 31. While the legislature is considering making remote meetings permanent, we should plan on deciding on meeting structure (in-person or hybrid), frequency and location. Brian Mc felt that if things were not changed by the next meeting date we should be prepared and book the room at the Ashland Police Sub-station on Pond Street. For this meeting we would do a hybrid meeting with those attending bringing their laptops. This would allow other people to join remotely. It was felt that having laptops there would reduce some of the technical problems that other meetings have had. A minimum of four voting members, one of which would be either the chair or vice chair, would be required. A poll of preferences was taken; Rob and Brian F felt Zoom meetings was the best solution. Martin, Amol and Brian Mc felt that the number of meetings per month and the in-forest meetings should control the type of meeting we would have. If we are having two meetings per month Zoom would be the most convenient.

- 4 Election of Co-Chair or Vice Chair

At our October 12 meeting, we changed the structure of the committee to create a co-chair and eliminate the vice chair position. With Mr. St. Germain's resignation from the committee, we need to either fill the vacant co-chair position or re-establish the vice chair position.

A motion was made to re-establish the position of vice-chair and seconded. The ATFC roll call vote was: Mr. Auger: YES, Mr. Forestal: YES, Mr. Jones: YES, Mr. McGrattan: YES, Mr. Rane: Yes. The motion passed 5-0-0.

A motion was made to have Mike J. be vice -chair and seconded. The ATFC roll call vote was: Mr. Auger: YES, Mr. Forestal: YES, Mr. Jones: YES, Mr. McGrattan: YES, Mr. Rane: Yes. The motion passed 5-0-0. .

5 Bungalow Clean Up

Provide details on getting water for a pressure washer. Schedule next phase clean up day.

A date of Thursday April 6 was decided on with Brian Mc, Ed and Mike to be there. Brian Mc to set up and get water, Ed to supply a gas powered pressure washer. Additional information from Mike Norton at The Holiston Training Center on repair/stabilization to follow per Rob.

6 Sub committees

Discuss general 2023/24 objectives of each subcommittee by the lead

Forestry (Mike) Mike requested funds to fertilize the trees the committee installed last year. A motion was made to purchase fertilizer not to exceed \$220.00 and seconded. The ATFC roll call vote was: Mr. Auger: YES, Mr. Forestal: YES, Mr. Jones: YES, Mr. McGrattan: YES, Mr. Rane: Yes. The motion passed 5-0-0. This would come out of DPW funds.

A second request was made by Mike purchase plants to be installed as part of the barberry removal project. A limited number of plants would be planted where the barberry were removed to reduce re-emergence of barberry. A motion was made to purchase the shade tolerant shrubs not to exceed \$550.00 and seconded. The ATFC roll call vote was: Mr. Auger: YES, Mr. Forestal: YES, Mr. Jones: YES, Mr. McGrattan: YES, Mr. Rane: Yes. The motion passed 5-0-0. This would come out of CPC funds.

Trails and Recreation (Brian F)

Becca Soloman; Conservation Agent has been working with Brian F and Cara about some work on the orange trail, she will get back to them soon. Ms. Soloman stated that an ATF Maintenance NOI or RDA would be required. The document would have to be extensive with all activities stated in detail. The NOI for Cowassock Woods is available and could be used as a model. This will be needed long term and will last 3 years with extension possible. There is a \$150.00 -\$200.00 filing charge for the NOI and any changes to it.

Becca Soloman, Conservation Agent, is working on finalizing the trail map and we will see it soon.

There was a question of the wood type for the trail markers, no resolution was reached.

Education and Promotion (Cara)

The permission was given to the mushroom walk people with limitations.

Land Acquisition Recommendations (Brian M)

Brian MC will bring the Oregon property to Mike Herbert

Other properties of importance are Collins and Hildreth

- 6 A motion was made to adjourn the meeting and seconded. The ATFC roll call vote was: Mr. Auger: YES, Mr. Forestal: YES, Mr. Jones: YES, Mr. McGrattan: YES, Mr. Rane: Yes. The motion passed 5-0-0.

Future Meeting Date: April 12 at police sub-station on Pond Street