



# Town of Ashland

## MASSACHUSETTS

1 Town Forest Committee Minutes  
2 Wednesday April 12, 2023

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

Members Absent:

Public Present: None

### **Hybrid Meeting: Police Substation (37 Pond Street) and Zoom**

Introducing new associate member candidates: Denise Carroll, Rugved Rane, Thomas Caywood

### 3 **Call to Order**

4 The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM.

5 **1. Introduction of new associate member candidates: Denise Carroll, Rugved Rane and Thomas**  
6 **Caywood** : none was present .

### 7 **2. Approval of Minutes of March 22, 2023 Meeting**

8 The Ashland Town Forest Committee (ATFC) reviewed the meeting minutes of March 22, 2023. A  
9 motion was made to approve the meeting minutes and seconded. The ATFC roll call vote was: Mr.  
10 Auger: YES, Mr. Forestal: YES, Mr. Jones: YES, Mr. McGrattan: YES, Mr. Rane: YES. Ms. Hulme; YES and  
11 Mr. Kakula: YES The motion passed 7-0-0.

### 12 **3. Expense Submittals & Accounting Report**

#### 13 **Expense Submittals**

14 None at this time, a request for getting bills turned in was made.

15 Motion was made to approve the purchase of a portable generator based on available funds. The ATFC  
16 roll call vote was: Mr. Auger: YES, Mr. Forestal: YES, Mr. Jones: YES, Mr. McGrattan: YES, Mr. Rane: YES.  
17 Ms. Hulme: YES and Mr. Kakula: YES The motion passed 7-0-0.

18 Motion was made for Brian F. to purchase the generator. The ATFC roll call vote was: Mr. Auger: YES,  
19 Mr. Forestal: YES, Mr. Jones: YES, Mr. McGrattan: YES, Mr. Rane: YES. Ms. Hulme: YES and

20 Mr. Kakula: YES The motion passed 7-0-0.

21 The electric bill was been taken out of our budget and will be covered by the Town per a meeting with  
22 Mr. Small per Brian M., Brian F. and Cara

23 **4. Acceptance of Map Update**

24 A review of the map was made with the following changes and additions:

25 Reduce thickness of black trail lines

26 Thicken border boxes around location numbers

27 Blue and red location boxes would be changed to a white font

28 Add Cowassock to the title

29 Add Town Shield

30 Make description text the same size as 'Caves'

31 Motion was made to accept the map with changes and additions. The ATFC roll call vote was: Mr. Auger:  
32 YES, Mr. Forestal: No, Mr. Jones: YES, Mr. McGrattan: YES, Mr. Rane: YES. Ms. Hulme: YES and Mr.  
33 Kakula :YES The motion passed 6-1-0.

34

35 **5. Appointment of Bay Circuit Trail liaison**

36 Brian F. offered to act a liaison to Bay Circuit Trail. A motion was made to have Mr. Forestal be that  
37 representative. The ATFC roll call vote was: Mr. Auger: YES, Mr. Forestal: Yes, Mr. Jones: YES, Mr.  
38 McGrattan: YES, Mr. Rane: YES. Ms. Hulme: YES and Mr. Kakula: YES The motion passed 7-0-0.

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40 **6. Shed Combination Lock**

41 There was a consensus to leave the lock as is and to put the same code in garage door key pads.

42

43 **7. Winter Battery Storage Redux**

44 A motion was made to purchase a thermostat for the storage box. The ATFC roll call vote was: Mr.  
45 Auger: ABSTAIN, Mr. Forestal: ABSTAIN, Mr. Jones: YES, Mr. McGrattan: ABSTAIN, Mr. Rane: NO longer  
46 at meeting, Ms. Hulme; ABSTAIN and Mr. Kakula: YES The motion passed 2-0-4.

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48 **8. NEMBA Membership Renewal**

49 Tabled

50

51 **9. SVT Membership Renewal**

52 Tabled

53 **10. Authorization to Purchase Deer Exclosure Supplies**

54 The funds had been authorized previously and should go ahead once a remaining budget is determined.

55

56 **11. Bungalow Clean Up**

57 An additional area of graffiti was noted at the Blue and Yellow trail intersection. Work will be done

58 Thursday April 13, 10:00am

59

60 **12. Subcommittee reports and updates**

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

62 **Forestry (Mike)**

63 Barberry removal and planting went well

64 Poison Ivy and Bittersweet removal was brought up and a discussion with the head of the Board of  
65 Health that indicated that the use of Tricloproy would be permitted in the Town Forest. A Motion was  
66 made to use Tricloproy on Poison Ivy and Bittersweet this year, and to communicate with the Board of  
67 Health when using the material. The ATFC roll call vote was: Mr. Auger: YES, Mr. Forestal: YES, Mr.  
68 Jones: YES, Mr. McGrattan: YES, Ms. Hulme: YES and Mr. Kakula :No The motion passed 5-1-0.

69 **Trails and Recreation (Brian F)**

70 Trail Bike Outings have started with a group of four riders with more coming next time.

71 **Education and Promotion (Cara)**

72 May 12<sup>th</sup> Fairy House Walk, wands and snacks were discussed. A motion was made to approve a \$200.00  
73 budget for the program to come out of the program fund. The ATFC roll call vote was: Mr. Auger: YES,  
74 Mr. Forestal: YES, Mr. Jones: YES, Mr. McGrattan: YES, Mr. Rane: NO, Ms. Hulme: YES and Mr. Kakula:  
75 YES The motion passed 6-0-0

76 Ideas for fall programing were discussed. A guest speaker like Cliff Wilson or Ken Ellerman, botanist,  
77 were mentioned.

78 **Land Acquisition Recommendations (Brian M)**

79 No new information.

80

81 **Motion to Adjourn**

82 A motion was made to adjourn the meeting and was seconded. The ATFC roll call vote was: Mr. Auger:  
83 YES, Mr. Forestal: YES, Mr. Jones: YES, Mr. McGrattan: YES, Ms. Hulme: YES and Mr. Kakula: YES The  
84 motion passed 6-0-0.

85 The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

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