Ashland Town Forest Committee
DRAFT Minutes of February 10th, 2021 Meeting
Location: Online Meeting via Zoom

Members Present: Brian Forestal, Mike Jones, Robert St. Germain, Catherine Rooney,

Members Absent: Brian McGrattan, Jamie Tripp

Guests: Matt Morris, Americorps Intern, Sudbury Valley Trustees

Call to Order 7:00 pm

Agenda item #3
With the agreement of the committee to advance this agenda item, Matt Morris from the SVT presented a proposal for a QR guided walk from the Cowassock entrance, through Cowassock Woods, and including yellow and red trails in the ATF. The QR codes would link to a forest health narrative providing information about each of 14 locations on the walk. SVT would be responsible for maintenance and updates. Mr. Forestal indicated that he is not in favor of more signage. Mr. St.Germain added that the use of the forest for public education is one of our agreed to top goals. Upon a motion duly made and seconded to approve the proposal, the VOTE was 2/2/0 (Forestal, Jones against). Upon further discussion and an amendment to approve it on a one-year trial basis with reconsideration in February 2022, and a motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED 3/1/0 (FORESTAL AGAINST) to approve the proposal on the trial basis. Mr. Jones indicated concern about the height of the posts. Additional discussion regarding post height resulted in a consensus that 30” posts were adequate and that directional arrows could be placed on existing map posts.

Agenda #1 Review and Acceptance of Meeting Minutes
Review of draft minutes from the January 6, 2021 meeting: Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED to approve the January 6, 2021 minutes 4/0/0.

Review of draft minutes of January 10, 2021 meeting: After a small addition for clarity was made, and upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED to approve the minutes as amended. 3/0/1 (Forestal abstained).

Review of draft minutes of January 21, 2021 meeting: After three minor corrections, and a motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED to approve the minutes as amended 3/0/1 (Rooney abstained).

Agenda #2 Expense Report Review and Acceptance: After review and a motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED to approve Brian McGrattan’s invoice #210123 dated 2/1/21 for boundary marking expenses in the amount of $447.80; passed 4/0/0

Mr. St.Germain suggested we suspend the rules and _advance Agenda item #13: VOTED 3/1/0

Agenda #13 AMC/BCT offer to help to construct the North Trail
Mr. St.Germain indicated that the BCT crew needs an answer as to whether or not the proposed North Trail and reroute of the BCT is approved. Mr. Forestal indicated that the proposal has not been fully vetted and that the proposed trail needs to be clearly flagged for inspection by members. Mr. St. Germain will re-flag the trail and inform the committee. Once all members have walked and inspected the proposed trail the
committee will take a vote. The committee has 30 days to walk/inspect the proposed trail following the re-flagging notice.

**Agenda #4 Updates**

**Boundary Marker:** Mr. McGrattan provided an update on progress by email.

**CPC Grant Release:** Mr. St.Germain indicated that the committee can now charge against the grant and that Mr. McGrattan’s invoice will be charged to that grant. The CPC Agreement is still in process.

**Americorps Grant**
Ms. Rooney presented four documents describing the “Capacity Building Project” which will combine invasive plant mapping in the forest as its target project. Mr. St.Germain indicated that the project deliverables are unclear and that the two Americorps members will leave at the end of this year. Ms. Rooney agreed to clean up the documents and clarify what will be done and when.

**Maps Discussion**
Mr. Forestal agreed to pursue getting authority for the committee to make its own changes to our web page including maps. Mr. St.Germain indicated that he is waiting to request previously discussed changes with Mr. Moulton until we agree on the identification of the Oak St. South Trail. Ms. Rooney would like improved contour lines on the habitat map.

**Utility Pole**
Mr. St.Germain indicated that the cost of the pole is $1800 but that the siting diagram was incorrect and is in process of revision by Eversource

**Agenda #5 Trail Cams**
Mr. Forestal reported that the cams were relocated to the Location #17 area. Mr. Jones suggested that Loc. #23 should be the next site.

**Agenda #6 Emails**
Mr. St.Germain indicated he received an email from Erin Strazzulla concerning a new deer stand in the forest south of Wilson Circle. It may be located on either Briasco land or ATF land. Mr. St.Germain and Mr. McGrattan will walk the area with the Strazzulla’s in the near future to study the boundaries and determine the location of the deer stand.

**Agenda #7 FaceBook Reports:** No reports received.

**Agenda #8 Shed Electrical**
A lengthy discussion concerning the need for the utility pole, the shed electrical specification and budget, and the availability of funds for the ATUV purchase used the remaining meeting time without reaching conclusion and will be discussed at the next meeting. Mr. Jones indicated the need to get started on the ATUV purchase because it is a lengthy process.

**Meeting Adjournment**
A motion was made to adjourn, seconded. Passed 4-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm

**Next Meeting**
Feb 24, 2021 at 7:00 pm via zoom
Documents Reviewed:
1. SVT Forest Health Self-Guided Tour map and narrative
2. Capacity Building Project Pre-Assessment
3. Americorps Project Plan,
4. Target Invasive Species List
5. Invasive Plant Survey Protocol
6. Draft minutes of the ATFC January 6, 2021 meeting
7. Draft minutes of the ATFC January 10, 2021 meeting
8. Draft minutes of the ATFC January 21, 2021 meeting
9. Brian McGrattan invoice #210123 dated 2/1/21 for boundary marking expenses in the amount of $447.80