



Town of Ashland

MASSACHUSETTS

MEETING MINUTES

ASHLAND TOWN FOREST COMMITTEE

Zoom Online Meeting – <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84854278153>

July 1, 2020 7:00 PM

1
2 Present: Brian Forestal (Chair)
3 Michael Jones (Vice Chair)
4 William Moulton (Secretary)
5 Cathy Rooney
6 Robert St. Germain
7 Brian McGrattan (Associate)
8

9 Public: Justin O'Brien
10 Andrew Rice
11

Call to order: 7:00 P.M.

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13
14 Since we had boy scouts in attendance, Mr. Forestal started with Agenda Items 5 and 6 first.

15
16 Item 5. Justin O'Brien is a Boy Scout from Troop 232. He is proposing to replace the
17 decking; add 16 feet of boardwalk and ramp to the north end and a gravel ramp to the south
18 end of the west (*north*) bridge on the yellow trail to make it safer. The bridge is about 1000 feet
19 north of intersection 46 in Cowassock Woods. Mr. Jones asked if the framing was good. Mr.
20 St. Germain indicated it was. Mr. O'Brien stated the cost would be about \$1000. Mr. Moulton
21 indicated that a Request for Determination of Applicability with conservation commission may
22 be sufficient. Mr. St. Germain motioned, seconded by Mr. Jones, to accept Mr. O'Brien
23 construction project at the west bridge on the yellow trail. Motion passed 5-0-0.
24

25 Item 6. Andrew Rice is a Boy Scout with Troop 232. He proposes installing a 40' x 40' deer
26 enclosure in the Town Forest. Mr. St. Germain proposed three different sites (between the blue
27 and red trails, north of the quarries and on Wildcat Hill). The committee discussed the
28 locations and specifics of the enclosures. The enclosures would have fence that is a minimum
29 of 7.5 feet high with posts being stakes & rebar every 8 feet, flagging on the netting and an
30 overlap section to provide access. If tying off to a tree then sisal or jute would be used. Mr. St.
31 Germain motioned, Mr. Jones seconded, to accept Mr. Rice's deer enclosure proposal as
32 amended by the committee. Motion passed 5-0-0.
33

34 The committee agreed on the general location of the deer enclosure would be in the area north
35 of the quarries.
36

37 Reviewed the minutes of May 6, 2020. Mr. Jones motioned, seconded by Mr. St. Germain, to
38 approve the minutes as amended. Motion passed 5-0-0.
39

40 Item 3. There was no expense report. All expenses had been approved at previous meetings.
41 There is a \$169.80 credit at Ashland Lumber. Will need to meet with DPW on what funds will
42 be available from the department.

43
44 Item 4. Dog Waste and Signage - Ms. Rooney recommends signage at just beginning at trail
45 heads. Discussed sign indication camera surveillance. Mr. St. Germain recommends stronger
46 language. Mr. Forestal believes signage will not work and enforcement is needed. Ms. Rooney
47 was not able to get an article in the local paper. Discussed different strategies to deal with dog
48 waste and dogs off leash. Mr. St. Germain put some signs on the kiosks and posts. Mr. Jones
49 will get the signs laminated. Ms. Rooney will try again to get an article in the paper.

50
51 Item 7. Library Boxes are proposed at the Ashland Town Forest by the Friends of the Ashland
52 Public Library. Mr. Jones will build a box. Looking for someone from the apartment complex
53 to manage the box. Can put the box on the right side of the kiosk at the Oak Street parking lot.
54 Mr. Moulton motioned, Mr. St. Germain seconded, to allow the Friends of the Ashland Public
55 Library to have boxes at the Town Forest.

56
57 Mr. St. Germain stated that SVT has grant available to map invasive species with AmeriCorp
58 in the Town Forest. Mr. St. Germain motioned, Ms. Rooney seconded, to have Mr. St.
59 Germain write a grant proposal for invasive species mapping. Motion passed 5-0-0.

60
61 Boundary marking funds were part of the CPC grant that was postponed to the November
62 Town meeting. Mr. McGrattan stated in could use spray paint to mark the spot until the
63 committee can get the markers. The committee agreed that Mr. McGrattan can start marking
64 the boundaries. Mr. St. Germain stated he may get some funds out of the DPW.

65
66 **8:58 PM Adjournment**
67 Ms. Rooney motioned, Mr. St. Germain seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 5-0-
68 0.

69
70 **Documents Reviewed by the Town Forest Committee on 07/01/2020**

- 71
- 72 • Town Forest Committee Agenda 2020-07-01
 - 73 • Document entitled, *ATFC minutes 2020-05-06 draft*
 - 74 • Document entitled, *Justin_Obrien_Eagle_Project_Proposal (5th version)*
 - Document entitled, *Andrew Rice-Eagle scout Project Proposal*