



Town of Ashland

MASSACHUSETTS

MEETING MINUTES

ASHLAND TOWN FOREST COMMITTEE

Zoom Online Meeting – <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85258613602>

July 15, 2020 7:00 PM

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- Present: Brian Forestal (Chair)
Michael Jones (Vice Chair)
William Moulton (Secretary)
Cathy Rooney
Robert St. Germain
Brian McGrattan (Associate)

Call to order: 7:00 P.M.

Item 1. Tim Riedl was out of state so the discussion on his boy scout project was tabled.

Item 2. Reviewed the minutes of July 1, 2020. Ms. Rooney motioned, seconded by Mr. Jones, to approve the minutes as amended. Motion passed 5-0-0

Item 3. The committee discussed about accessing the trail that crosses the Harrington parcel. Mr. St. Germain will discuss with the owner about obtaining access to the trail. Also, he will ask the owner about preserving the possible Native American prayer rocks on the west side of the parcel.

Item 4. Mr. McGrattan has acquired 6 cans of white paint. He will start boundary marking at the shed and work to the west.

Item 5. Mr. Jones stated that the DPW has completed the loam and seeding. Approximately 1/3 of the mulching has been done. Irrigation is in to water the site and will be done once a day in the morning. Mr. Jones recommends additional watering in the afternoon and on weekends. Mr. St. Germain will assist Mr. Jones. The kiosk has been assembled and holes have been dug. DPW will place in the holes and backfill. The 28-foot bridge has been constructed and trail cleared to the Green trail by Blackstone Valley NEMBA. The southern entrance at Oak Street was discussed. It is not a main entrance so the permanent bridge will be installed later.

Item 6. Justin O'Brien inquired if he can go to the Boy Scout Council for approval. Mr. St. Germain confirmed that he was okay to proceed. Mr. Moulton discussed permitting status for the bridge projects.

Item 7. Deer enclosure location was discussed. The location has been staked out north of the quarries and Clark parcel about 180 feet from the BCT. A possible vegetation sampling scheme was discussed to document impact of deer browsing. Mr. St. Germain will contact Andrew Rice regarding his status.

42 Item 8. Ms. Rooney submitted at dog leash and waste article to the local paper. She has not
43 heard if it will be in the paper. Mr. St. Germain meet with the CPC regarding additional money
44 for the pullbear. The CPC will cover the additional \$90.

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46 Item 9. There is no expense report.

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48 Item 10. Mr. Jones picked up a laminator and will get signs from Mr. St. Germain and put in
49 200 feet from trail head.

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51 Item 11. The committee discussed Friends of Forest 501 (c) (3) organization. Mr. St. Germain
52 will talk to Town Counsel regarding 501 (c) (3) requirements. Discussed acquiring a couple
53 of URLs for such purpose. Will Taylor of Winter Street has offered services for the website.
54 Several names were discussed. The consensus is to acquire FriendsOfAshlandTownForest.com
55 and FriendsOfAshlandTownForest.org. Mr. St. Germain had contacted Mr. Taylor about the
56 URLs.

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58 Item 12. There is no preparation for Town Meeting.

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60 Item 13. Tree Replacement program was discussed. Funds and equipment would be needed
61 such as the UTV. Mr. Forestal discussed need for electricity for shed and electric UTV. Mr.
62 St. Germain has reached out to the Frank Nakashian, the town's Sustainability Coordinator,
63 about a grant for the UTV. He will not know for another 60 days. A woman contacted the
64 AFTC about donating some trees. Mr. Jones contacted her said they were not suitable and
65 referred her to the Garden Club. Also, there is a tree at the Oak Street triangle that may could
66 be moved to the rain garden area in September or October.

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68 Mr. St. Germain motioned, seconded by Mr. Jones to ask Mr. Taylor to acquire the URLs.
69 Committee discussed the motion. Mr. Taylor had informed Mr. St. Germain that
70 AshlandTownForestFriends are available. It is not the desired URLs. Mr. St. Germain will
71 need to discuss more with Mr. Taylor. Mr. St. Germain withdrew his motioned, Mr. Jones
72 withdrew his second.

73
74 Mr. Taylor messaged Mr. St. Germain that he can acquire the desired URLs. Mr. St. Germain
75 motioned, seconded by Mr. Jones to reserve URL FriendsOfAshlandTownForest.com and
76 FriendsOfAshlandTownForest.org as potential websites at \$30.00 for one year. Motion passed
77 5-0-0.

78
79 Item 14. The committee discussed the procedure for the agenda. Ms. Rooney requested that a
80 draft form be sent out before it is submitted. Mr. Forestal stated that it is tough to do because of
81 the lack of time. Ms. Rooney asked that the agenda be emailed to the committee.

82
83 Item 15. The committee discussed alternative funding ideas. Mr. St. Germain stated the CPC
84 has been receptive to Town Forest needs. We have received a CISMA grant and may get
85 another. There may be grants available from Department of Conservation and Recreation.
86 Mike Downey within DCR's Bureau of Forestry may have grant money. Executive Office of
87 Energy and Environmental Affairs may have grant money. There may be trail grants and land
88 acquisition grants. SVT may be able to assist.

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90 **8:57 PM Adjournment.**

91 Mr. St. Germain motioned, seconded by Mr. Jones, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 5-0-

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94 **Documents Reviewed by the Town Forest Committee on 07/15/2020**

95 • Town Forest Committee Agenda 2020-07-15

96 • Document entitled, *ATFC minutes 2020-07-01 draft*