



Town of Ashland

MASSACHUSETTS

MEETING MINUTES
ASHLAND TOWN FOREST COMMITTEE
PLANNING MEETING

Zoom Online Meeting – <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86707313022>

July 26, 2020 8:00 AM

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39

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

Public: Joel Arbeitman, 28 Woodbridge Lane
Roberta Soolman, 28 Woodbridge Lane

Call to order: 8:00 AM

- Item 1. Strategic Priorities and Goals was voted on at the February 9, 2020 meeting.
- Item 2. Items 2a, 2b and 2c (Haworth boardwalk) were voted on at the February 9, 2020 meeting. Discussed location markers (Item 2d) and decided cannot do at this time.
Joel Arbeitman and Roberta Soolman were in attendance for discussion of the yellow trail and possible reroute around the tank.
- Item 3.
 - a. Reroute of the yellow trail around the water tanks was discussed. Mr. St. Germain discussed possible location for yellow trail to go around the north side of the water tank to Intersection 35 or 36. Mr. Arbeitman discussed an alternate that would bring the trail around the north side and then hook into blue trail by intersection 42. He also suggested moving blue trail at intersection 41 and 42 to keep people off the pavement. Mr. St. Germain mentioned conducting a sitewalk. Mr. Jones discussed eliminating the blue trail between intersections 34 and 41. Mr. St. Germain talked about changing the blue trail from intersection 25 to intersection 42 to yellow trail. Also. To eliminate blue trail between intersections 31 and 33. Mr. Forestal stated that mountain bikers may like it and could put up warning signs. Mr. St. Germain suggested tabling the discussion and go out with Mr. Arbeitman and Ms. Soolman for a site visit to look at the yellow trail reroute and other options. Ms. Soolman and Ms. Rooney requested scheduling the site walk for August 2nd. The site walk was scheduled for August 2, 2020 to meet at the end of Woodridge Lane.
 - b-c. The committee discussed the Nicolo property and Oak Street north trail. Mr. St. Germain mentioned options for trails within the Nicolo property. One would be from Oak Street to stone wall along southern end the Nicolo parcel to the BCT, 2nd would be coming out opposite of

40 intersection 17 and the third would be joining the BCT near intersection 18. Ms. Rooney
41 mentioned that impact to wildlife is a concern and she has had comments from people that the
42 forest is becoming a park. Ms. Rooney indicated that the committee should conduct a field
43 visit to the Nicolo parcel. The committee and participants discussed the purpose of the Nicolo
44 parcel acquisition, expectations, possible trails establishment, trail usage and wildlife impacts.
45 The committee decided to table the discussion.

46
47 d. The pink path was discussed by the committee. This a neighborhood trail that connects from
48 the Bay Circuit Trail (BCT) south of intersection 11, heads southwesterly and splits with one
49 section ending at Kings Row and other section goes to High Ridge Road. The trail that ends at
50 Kings Row stays on town property at the Kings Row cul-de-sac. At High Ridge the trail
51 crosses private property prior to reaching the cul-de-sac. The committee discussed the parking
52 issues at the cul-de-sac and the designation of the trail. Mr. St. Germain motioned, seconded
53 by Mr. Jones, to designate the trail from Kings Row and High Ridge Road as a neighborhood
54 access trail designated by black, no advertised parking and treat it at a second priority relative
55 to trail maintenance. Motion passed 5-0-0.

56
57 The committee briefly discussed these type of neighborhood trails. Mr. Forestal stated that he
58 will add to future agenda for discussion on how to handle them.

59
60 e. White (formally red) trail reroute between intersection 20 and 23 on the steep section. The
61 committee had flagged and discussed it years ago. Mr. St. Germain motioned, seconded by Ms.
62 Rooney, to reroute the portion of the white trail just north of the shed to make a more
63 sustainable route. Motion passed 4-1(Jones)-0.

64
65 f. Tabled the discussed the possible closure of the blue trail between intersection 31 and 33.

66
67 g. Discussed Steve Brandt's trail proposal #6. This is an unauthorized trail that is being used.
68 Viewed the map that he had submitted. Mr. Forestal stated that it is a nice trail to ride on. Mr.
69 Moulton express his concern about the number of trails being built. Ms. Rooney had concerns
70 about impact on wildlife habitat. Mr. Forestal stated the trail is dry and well worn. Mr. St.
71 Germain motioned, seconded by Ms. Rooney, to close the trail indicated as #6. Motion passed
72 4-1(Forestal)-0.

73
74 **10:06 AM Adjournment.**

75 Mr. St. Germain motioned, seconded by Mr. Jones, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 5-0-
76 0

77
78 **Documents Reviewed by the Town Forest Committee on 07/26/2020**

- 79
- Town Forest Committee Agenda 2020-07-26
 - Document entitled, Steve Brandt Trail recommendations Dec2019
- 80