



Town of Ashland

MASSACHUSETTS

Ashland Town Forest Committee

Minutes of September 30, 2020 Meeting

Location: Online Meeting via Zoom

Members Present: Brian Forestal, Mike Jones, Robert St. Germain, Brian McGrattan, Catherine Rooney, Jamie Tripp (Associate)

Members Absent: None

Public / Non-members Present: Dan Stimson, Steve Brandt, Eddie Riedl, Tim Riedl

Call to Order 7:02pm

Agenda Items

Proposed improvements to SVT bridges (Agenda Item 4)

Mr. Stimson of the Sudbury Valley Trustees (SVT) described the required improvements to the approaches to the two bridges on the yellow trail. The existing bridges are adequate, but the approaches to the approaches are of concern. Mr. Forestal and Mr. St. Germain briefed the committee on the current status of ATF property and supplies used on SVT managed land.

Presently, the north bridge has a fifteen foot stone approach. The proposal is to replace this with a wood ramp. The Conservation Committee did not accept the proposal as presented. The wood ramp will now be extended to transit the wet land.

A proposal to level and grade the approach to the south bridge with $\frac{3}{4}$ inch stone is also rejected. The 60 foot extension and wood ramp are approved.

A motion was made that the ATF approve the north bridge project as modified by the conservation committee to replace the stone approaches with wooden ramps, eight feet in length on the south end and sixteen feet on the north end. The motion was seconded and passed on a 3-1-1 vote.

A motion was made that the ATF approved the south bridge project with a sixty foot wooden extension on south end and an eight foot extension on the north end. The motion was seconded and passed on a 3-1-1 vote.

A motion was made to direct Mr. St. Germain to use existing lumber to exact repairs on the two existing bridges. A motion to table the discussion was made, then after furth discussion the motion to table was withdrawn. The original motion was then seconded and passed on a 5-0-0 vote.

Introduction of Public Attendees

Mr. St. Germain introduced Mr. Eddie Riedl. Mr. Riedl described the long standing and mutually beneficial relationship between the Boy Scouts and the Town Forest. Following this discussion

48 Mr. Reidl and Mr. Tim Riedl departed.

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50 Mr. Forestal introduced Steve Brandt who has expressed an interest in joining the ATFC as an
51 associate member.

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53 **Review and Acceptance of August 22, 2020 and September 16, 2020 Meeting Minutes**
54 **(Agenda Item 1)**

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56 The August 16 Minutes were reviewed. A motion was made to accept the minutes as amended.
57 The motion was seconded and passed on a 4-0-1 vote.

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59 The September 16 Minutes were reviewed. A motion was made to accept the minutes as
60 amended. The motion was seconded and passed on a 4-1-0 vote.

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62 **Committee Elections (Agenda Item 2)**

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64 Mr. Forestal expressed an interest in retaining his position as chair of the committee. Mr. St.
65 Germain recommended the committee adopt the practice of the Select Board by having a
66 rotating chairmanship. After discussion, a motion was made and seconded to have Mr. Forestal
67 remain as chair. The motion was passed on a 4-1-0 vote.

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69 A motion was made to re-elect Mr. Jones as vice chair. The motion was seconded and passed
70 on a 5-0-0 vote.

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72 A motion was made to elect Mr. McGrattan secretary. The motion was seconded and passed
73 on a 5-0-0 vote.

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75 **SVT Walk in the Woods (Agenda Item 3)**

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77 The committee proposed that the Walk in the Woods be deferred to June 2021. A motion was
78 made to assign Ms. Rooney to determine the date and agenda in her role as Forest Steward.
79 The motion was seconded and passed on a 5-0-0 vote.

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81 **Town Forest URL (Agenda Item 5)**

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83 A discussion was held on possibilities for an appropriate Uniform Resource Locator (URL, also
84 known as a web address) to direct inquiries to the ATFC. The discussion is timely, as the
85 committee will initiate boundary marking, and would like to include a persistent URL to be
86 placed on the markers. Mr. St. Germain had reached out to professional associates and noted
87 that FriendsOfTheAshlandTownForest.com is currently registered to us. Additionally, there is a
88 web page on the town website, ashlandmass.com. The committee asked that Mr. Forestal
89 contact the town administration to see if we could use the URL AshlandMass.com\TownForest
90 with a redirect to the existing town forest page.

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92 **Updates (Agenda Item 6)**

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94 Updates were given on progress at the Oak Street Rain Garden, the completion of work by the
95 DPW to the culvert on the red trail, and a letter to abutters concerning boundary marking.

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Next Meeting 10-14-2020

Adjournment

A motion made to adjourn. Passed 5-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:59 pm

Document Referenced

Town Forest Committee Agenda
Meeting Minutes Aug 22nd and Sept 16th.