



Town of Ashland

MASSACHUSETTS

Ashland Town Forest Committee

Minutes of October 14, 2020 Meeting

Location: Online Meeting via Zoom

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

Members Absent: Jamie Tripp (Associate)

Call to Order 7:00pm

Review and Acceptance of September 30, 2020 Meeting Minutes (Agenda Item 1)

The September 30 Minutes were reviewed. A motion was made to accept the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded and passed on a 5-0-0 vote.

Budget and Expense Report (Agenda Item 2)

- Mr. St. Germain produced and sent out a budget update to the committee.
- Ms. Rooney inquired about a credit at Ashland Lumber.
- Ms. Rooney inquired about a Boston Athletic Association grant to the town forest several years ago to purchase trash receptacles at the Winter St lot. Mr. Forestal will request the release of these funds for other purposes to the Select Board via email.
- Mr. St. Germain noted that copies of all spreadsheets discussed are available for inspection on the Google drive used by the committee.
- Mr. Forestal requested that in addition to descriptions and costs, the expenses include quantity. Mr. St. Germain noted that all invoices are also posted and contain detailed information. A motion was made to approve the expense reported as submitted. The motion passed 5-0-0.
- A motion was made to accept the budget reported as submitted. The motion passed 5-0-0.

Trail Feature Discussion (Agenda Item 3)

An Ashland resident requested permission from the Committee to modify a log that had fallen beside a trail so as to have a flat top along the length of the log to ride bicycles across. By consensus, the committee rejected the proposal. A discussion ensued on uses of the forest for other recreational purposes, and how the committee might provide notices to the residents for mixed use.

Updates (Agenda Item 4)

- **Boundary Marker Purchase:** Mr. Forestal worked with the town's web technical services to get the ATF URL changed to ashlandmass.com/townforest. The design of the proposed boundary marker will be modified to include this identifier. Mr. McGrattan will work on obtaining a quotation to purchase the markers.

- 47 • Deer Enclosure: The construction of the enclosure is complete. Extra materials to
48 maintain the enclosure have been placed in the shed. A plant inventory inside the
49 enclosure and in a control area outside of the enclosure needs to be done, either now or
50 in the spring. Ms. Rooney is seeking an Americorps grant for advice on this matter.
- 51 • SVT walk: The SVT walk in the woods is scheduled for June 6, 2021.
- 52 • Rain Garden: The rain garden is in good shape. Mr. St. Germain will water the plantings
53 this weekend if necessary, in Mr. Jones' absence.
- 54 • Yellow Trails: The scouts are working on fundraising to procure materials for the
55 extension and modification of the bridges on the yellow trail. The scouts would like to
56 complete the projects by years end. The Conservation Commission will hear the
57 modified proposal next week, and if approved and following the ten day public comment
58 period, the earliest start date for the project will be the end of the month.
- 59 • Review Letter to Abutters: Ms. Rooney will work with Mr. Forestal on a draft of the letter.
- 60 • Boundary Markers: Mr. St. Germain will distribute SVT's guidelines on boundary markers
61 to the committee.
- 62 • Town Forest URL: (see Boundary Marker Purchase above.) The committee noted that
63 updates to maps, brochures, the kiosks, etc., should be done with the new URL.
64 Additionally, several maps are out of date and are not reflective of the current trail
65 network in the forest. Mr. Forestal will contact Mr. Bill Moulton to update map. Mr.
66 Forestal will also identify documents requiring updates.

67 68 **Oak Street Parking (Agenda Item 5)**

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70 Mr. McGrattan noted that a local painting contractor is routinely occupying the ATF parking
71 spots at the Oak Street entrance to the forest. Mr. Forestal will contract the property manager
72 at the Oak Street apartments via email, asking for her intervention on this matter.

73 74 **Trail Cam (Agenda Item 6)**

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76 Mr. St Germain procured two trail cams, one to replace Mr. McGrattan's camera vandalized
77 while in forest use and one for the committee to use. Mr. McGrattan donated his camera to the
78 forest, so the committee is now in possession of two cameras. Mr. McGrattan also purchased
79 memory cards needed to store photos on the camera.

80
81 The committee decided by consensus that the cameras be installed initially at the Oak Street
82 entrance and the Oregon Road entrance to gauge the amount of activity at these two locations.
83 Previous installations have measured the two Winter Street lots. Mr. Forestal and Mr.
84 McGrattan to install.

85 86 **Next Meeting**

87
88 October 28, 2020, 7:00 PM via Zoom

89 90 **Adjournment**

91
92 A motion made to adjourn. Passed 5-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:59 pm

93 94 **Document Referenced**

95 Town Forest Committee Agenda
96 Meeting Minutes September 30, 2020.

97 Budget and Expense Reports