

ACF Minutes 1/12/23

Ashley Community Forest Board - Regular Meeting Agenda

Thursday 1/12/23, 6:00 p.m.

Sharon Academy, Sharon, Vermont

Attendance: Annie Penfield, David Paganelli, Erik Skarsten , Rob Stainton,

Friends of ACF: Kevin Gish, Dick Ruben.

1. Call to order 6:05
2. Public Comments - Dorian Yates conversation with Annie Penfield about the timeline of the management plan, advised that the board was still in the process of reviewing public comments.
3. Minutes approved from 12/8. Motion was made by ES and seconded by AP. Passed unanimously.
4. 2022 ACF Annual Report: Discussion about inclusion of harvesting of Black Locust trees and the inclusion in this report of the potential for them to be commercially harvested. The wording of the sentence was changed with "bulk" removed from the annual report language to reflect the discussion. AP made a motion to approve the Annual Report with the removal of "bulk." Seconded by ES, passed unanimously.
5. Treasurer Report: Reviewed. KG suggested that the budget should reflect the fiscal year not the calendar year. The fiscal year starts on July 1st, so that the fiscal year 2024 starts on July 1st 2023. We are submitting to both selectboards the budget report for fiscal year 2022 and submit for approval the budget for fiscal year 2023.

Discussion on the budget about the \$500 payment to a volunteer school team/group on top of volunteer work that will be needed to mechanically pull invasive plants previously identified.

Discussion of outhouse plans and costs. KG will share a design.

AP will submit the 2022 financial report, a proposed budget for 2023, even though it is part way through the year and a proposed budget for fiscal year 2024.

6. Discussion of Public Comment

Black Locust - Discussion of Timberhomes Vermont interest in Black Locust. As a business their demand for kiosks is not meeting the supply of this tree. The desire by this company to commercially harvest some of these trees from the ACF was made. This could not occur until next winter. Dave will draft language about commercial harvesting of Black Locust for discussion at the next meeting.

Modifications to the Forest Stewardship plan - interest from the Strafford Energy and Environment Committee of the ability of the forest to sequester carbon as part of the States reduction plan. Discussion of how the forest needs to be reordered to reflect a more natural composition, this will help carbon sequestration. There will be an education program about carbon and forestry this summer. The Board is intentionally trying to ensure that the forest is healthy and capable of maximizing carbon sequestration.

Discussion of public comment from residents who have strong views on specific topics. How to think about the voice of residents who don't raise their viewpoint. Discussion of how it is difficult to find unbiased studies on controversial topics from either side of a debate.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35.

Next Meeting 2-9-22 at the Justin Morrill Education Center, Strafford, Vermont 6:00pm.

Draft minutes respectively submitted by R. Stainton on 1/16/23
Approved on 2/9/23.