

Ashley Community Forest Board - Regular Meeting Agenda

Thursday 5-11-23, 6:00 p.m.

Sharon Academy High School, Sharon Vermont

Attendance: David Paganelli, Judith Faulk, Annie Pennfield, Rob Stainton, Michael Sacca, Erik Skarsten

1. Call to Order - 6:00 PM
2. Public Comments - none.
3. Approve Minutes from 4-13-23 meeting. Approved unanimously.
4. Update on Ashley Community Forest Stewardship Plan review by VLT.
VHFC have reviewed the plan and have no issue with the Plan. Peter Van Loon from the Vermont Land Trust is reviewing the revisions to the plan.
5. Request for Black Locust – Town Office, Cobb Forest, Mike Hebb.
No longer needed for the Cobb Forest. Mike Hebb would like a resolution on whether he can collect scrap Black Locust to make bowls. He will make one for ACF for a raffle as an exchange payment. Motion passed that Mike Hebb can use Black Locust to make bowls, with one to be given to ACF to raise funds in exchange for the wood.
6. Proposal for Trail Maintenance plan - Michael. The following is being discussed.
Improvements to existing trails
 - i. Improve trailhead area
 - create a more welcoming entrance to ACF
 - class 4 road stays wet much of the year, continues to erode
 - water bars were created a couple of years ago, could be improved
 - ii. Improve trail just above foundation/well area
 - this area has eroded a lot, perhaps due to increased foot traffic
 - needs water bars and other improvements
 - iii. Slight reroute of trail
 - this part of the trail indistinct, needs more definition
 - divert trail to give views down slope
 - possibly install small, rustic bench at overlook
 - iv. Redirect trail to avoid steep, eroding section
 - redirect trail so it's not as steep
 - new section would create an overlook of sorts
 - add water bars if needed
 - possibly install small, rustic bench

- v. Create loop trail that connects to existing road
 - trail ends at stone wall, will eventually connect to Manning Farm Trail
 - possibly install small, rustic bench at overlook area

General consensus is that this work needs to be completed and we are looking for a date to walk the trails.

7. Treasurer's report – Mascoma Bank CD.

Annie Pennfield - we have approximately \$36,000 with no interest gained. Motion by David P to put the money in a 4% CD. Seconded by Rob Stainton. Motion passed.

8. Report on April 22 nd Invasive Plant Work Day and reminder of 5/20 Invasive Plant Work Day. We had 14 people for part of the day and we got a lot of work done. We completed about half of the area that was targeted. Next time we need more tools.

9. Programming update. No new programming. Coming up in the next month: a walk this Sunday May 14th, bird walk on May 20th and two other events proposed with no dates currently set. June 1st Indigenous Lens on Plants. There is a potential for art programming.

10. No other business.

Meeting to adjourn at 6:40.

Next meeting. 6-8-23 at Justin Morrill Ed Center, Strafford, Vermont 6:00 PM start.
Draft minutes respectively submitted by R. Stainton on 5/23/23