

**Ashley Community Forest Board - Regular Meeting Minutes - Approved 3/14/24**  
Thursday 12-14-23, 6:00 p.m.  
Sharon Academy High School, Sharon, Vermont

Attendance: Rob Stainton, Annie Penfield, Judith Falk, David Paganelli, Michael Sacca, Erik Skarsten.

1. Call to Order at 6:05 pm
2. Public Comments.  
“I don’t think that there is a deeded right of way. If there is one, can you please find it in the deeds?”  
There is a right of way described in the neighbor’s deed and so we will seek a legal opinion about what rights that provides us. Erik will contact the landowner to assure them that we are seeking legal advice but have no plans to take legal action.
3. Approve Minutes from 11-9-23 meeting. Move to approve - Annie. Seconded David - Approved.
4. Treasurer’s Report Discussion – An annual budget report will be due for both Selectboards and the Ashley Community Forest Board. Annie will draft the report and send around for us to review.
5. Annual Programming List for inclusion in Ashley Community Forest section of both Town Reports. A one-page list of Programming for each town report. Erik will compile a list and send it to David for the report.
6. Reaffirm our decision from the 11/9/23 meeting that we should obtain a legal opinion on our Sharon access. Discussed inviting Clifford Farm Road residents to attend a future meeting to discuss access and shared road maintenance after a legal opinion has been received and discussed by the Board. Ashley Community Forest Management Policy discussion. Motion to accept from Michael Sacca and seconded by Annie Pennfield. The motion passed unanimously.
7. Report on Black Locust Project. Discussion to outline responsibilities of the ACF Board and town Selectboards in terms of the approval and execution of a contract for this project. David outlined a process, in detail, of what each group is responsible for. The process is a clarification of paragraph 6 in the Interlocal Agreement. The policy shall be sent to the Selectboards.  
  
Waiting for the VLT to approve the Forest Management Plan. Jim Welch has been notified and the project has been postponed until next year.
8. Kiosk project update: Michael has signed a contract of sorts with TimberHomes for the Classic Trailhead Kiosk. Paid for by the Davis Conservation Foundation with funds that need to be used by the end of this year.
9. Work plan for 2024.

Blazing - discussion of what color to paint and when. Flagging for now with paint in the spring.

- Gate,
- No Motorized Vehicle sign. We will use Black Locust posts for these.
- Kiosk installed,
- Stones will be moved to help block unauthorized motorized access to the woods.
- Modest parking area expansion and gentle ditch at the edge,
- Fix existing trail erosion.

10. Other Business. Letter to the Newton School and Sharon Elementary School to outline the use of the Forest for Education, in particular the foundations.

- Next meeting is the second Thursday in March. January and February meetings are canceled and it was decided that going forward meetings do not need to be monthly.
- Rob Stainton will need to step down in May as he will no longer be a Sharon resident.
- Thank you to Ashley Volunteers for the List Serves.

7:30 Meeting Adjourned at 7:25.

Next meeting: **3-14-24** at Sharon Academy H.S, Sharon, Vermont  
Draft Minutes respectfully submitted by Rob Stainton