

Ashley Community Forest Board - Regular Meeting DRAFT Minutes

Thursday 3-14-24, 6:00 p.m.

Sharon Academy High School, Sharon, Vermont

Attendance: David Paganelli, Erik Skarsten, Michael Sacca, Rob Stainton, Annie Penfield, Kevin Gish, AJ Follensbee

1. Call to Order 6:02
2. Public Comments - none.
3. Approve Minutes from 12-14-23 meeting - approved.
4. Review and Approve 2025 ACF Budget. Annie Pennfield emailed it out after the last meeting but the Budget is yet to be approved. The budget was reviewed at the meeting. David will draw up a proposal for widening the parking lot as outlined in the FY 2024 budget. Motion to approve the budget by David Paganelli. Seconded by Erik Skarsten. Passed unanimously.
5. Election of Officers. Chair - David Paganelli nominated by Rob Stainton seconded by Annie Pennfield. Unanimous, Treasurer, David Paganelli nominated Annie Pennfield Seconded by Rob Stainton. Unanimous. Recording Clerk. David Paganelli nominated Rob Stainton for the duration of his term, seconded by Annie Pennfield. Unanimous.
6. Discuss possible ACF Board replacement for current Board members in transition. David talked with Kevin Gish and the Selectboard will post the opening to the Town of Sharon public. The position on the Board to represent Sharon will be left vacant following the resignation of Rob Stainton from the board, announced at this meeting, who will step down after the May meeting.
7. Discussion of Erik's and Michael's meeting with Keenan Haley. Michael Sacca sent out notes from the last meeting. Keenan Haley, speaking for Sharon Elementary, said they would like better trail signage, a better toilet situation, and to work with other schools on projects, a fire pit, walks specifically for younger children, and a curriculum for cultural understanding. Discussion of how and who would design the curriculum.
8. The Forest Stewardship Plan has been approved and adopted. Motion that we all sign made by David Paganelli. Seconded by Annie Pennfield. Approved unanimously.
9. Update on Forest Management Activity policy and Budget Modification process. Activity policy has been approved by both Selectboards.
10. Update on ROW legal opinion. Proposal to ask Markel to look into the deed and ask for an opinion on what our rights were made by David Paganelli. Seconded by Annie Pennfield. Unanimous.
11. Bench and Criteria for future benches or monuments. Should benches be placed throughout the Forest. Possible designated area rather than throughout the Forest. Can we start with the proposal for this first bench to provide a framework. Request is for a written formal proposal for a bench to honor the work of Warren Johnson, this will be submitted for approval by the Board, who will then select a location.
13. Kiosk update, Michael. Kiosk is in Annie's barn.

7:41 Adjourn

Next meeting. **4-11-24** at Sharon Academy H.S., Sharon, Vermont