

## Ashley Community Forest Board - Regular Meeting FINAL Minutes

Thursday 5-8-25, 6:00 p.m.

Sharon Town Office, Sharon, Vermont

### In-Person Participants:

ACF Board: David Paganelli, Kevin Gish, Michael Sacca, Annie Penfield

Public: Malcolm McShinsky, Deb Fisk

#### 1. Call to Order

DP called to order at 6:00.

#### 2. Public Comments.

Malcolm has tried to get to Ashley, but the weather has not been cooperating.

#### 3. Approve Minutes from 4-10-25 meeting.

**AP motioned to approve the minutes from 4-10-25 with minor modifications as noted; MS seconded; approved unanimously.**

#### 4. Discussion of Clifford Farm Road access and AMP resolution.

The Board met with Deb Fisk, an abutter of the Ashley Community Forest (ACF), regarding potential access off of Clifford Farm Rd. to the ACF for the purpose of removing wood from a brook that was left behind from a previous logging operation on the Ashley property. The Board explained to DF that we are not currently asking for permanent legal access, but rather a one-time access for an excavator to complete the removal of wood from the brook as required by State Acceptable Management Practices (AMP) regulations.

Malcolm mentioned that he knows Martha Fisk (mother of Deb Fisk, and also nearby landowner) well, and could talk with her and explain the work to be done.

DF said that she could support this work but asked for a simple written agreement specifying some details and parameters of the work to be done, including the time period for access.

Plan forward: DP will draft an agreement, run it by the Board and then forward to DF. In the meantime, Malcolm will discuss the matter with Martha Fisk.

#### 5. Update on Forest Management Activity.

- Close out activities – possibly May 23<sup>rd</sup>.
  - o Was sked for this past Mon but did not happen due to rain; now tentatively scheduled for May 23.
  - o DP proposes using dozer to smooth and stump new trail from the landing to the Sharon meadow and install water bars, while the machine is on site for close out activities. Also, slash in trail from foundation to meadow – will be cleaned up as part of contract. This material could be pushed into the meadow at one of the islands to be eventually burned.
    - **DP motioned to do trail cleanup, island/meadow cleanup beyond existing logging contract, paying the logger for up to 1 day of dozer work. AP seconded; approved unanimously.**
- Trail Standard and Sharon Meadow.

No discussion.
- Boundary Blazing – report on work day.

DP described blazing with 3 foresters; got quite a bit of the boundary done. There were a few areas where blazing was not done due to uncertainty about the boundary; some could possibly be painted. There is a partial day of blazing work left to be done followed by painting the blazes possibly in the fall.
- Post-harvest improvement and Crop Tree Release, June 24<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.

No discussion.

6. Report on Twilight Walk (4/12) and meeting with Sam Brakely - Michael
  - Twilight walk: 5 people attended, bad weather and dark at the end, but the event was successful overall.
  - Sam Brakely.: MS met with Sam Brakely regarding trail expansion and improvement. Sam is flexible about consulting and who does the work. Discussed rerouting steep section of loop and the creation of a possible additional loop.
  - MS also discussed the approximately \$15K of AVC funds held by Vital Communities that was mentioned at our previous meeting. MS would like to give the funds directly to ACF fund and use for trail work + land use curriculum. The Board was fully in support of this approach. MS will follow up with Vital Communities.
  - DP also mentioned Charlie Cogbill (historian) could possibly have input to a land use curriculum.
7. Educational Programming Days for 2025: MS updated the Board on ed programs
  - Naturalist Walk with Jayson Benoit  
Sunday May 11, 8-10 AM
  - Twilight Walk with Michael Sacca  
Sunday May 11, 7–9pm
  - Ecology: Woodland Relationships Observed with Tii McLane  
Sunday May 18, 2-4 PM
  - Birds with Kyle Jones, time TBD  
Saturday, June 7
  - Post-Harvest Forest Management Tour with David Paganelli, 9-11 am  
6/7/25
  - Tucker Mountain Forest tour with Tom Kidder, 1:00-3:00 pm (DP)  
6/8/25
  - Marking Forest Stand Improvement (DP)  
6/10 and 6/13/25
  - Sing with Becky Bailey  
date and time TBD (AP)
  - Implementing Forest Stand Improvement (DP)  
6/24 and 6/27/25
  - Fireflies with Michael Sacca  
6/28/25, 8-10 pm
  - Twilight Walk with Michael Sacca  
7/11/25, 8-10 pm
  - Invasive Plant Work Day, time TBD (DP)  
7/19/25
  - Invasive Plant Work Day (ES)  
8/16/25 (8/23/25 rain date)
8. Related Program Reminder: Vermont Woodlands Association 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Field Day.  
DP highlighted the June 28<sup>th</sup> VWA event at Clover Hill Tree Farm, 20 Blanchard Road, South Strafford. Draft agenda, flyer, program list.
9. Other Business.
  - a. Warren's Bench: The bench is complete and MS discussed possible locations. **DP moved to authorize MS to locate. AP seconded; approved unanimously.**

- b. VLGS crew wants to assist with work at ACF. MS will get them to join on 7/19/25 for invasives.
- c. AP said a Certificate of Deposit was purchased with a 5 month term, but the rate was not known.

7:30 Adjourn. **DP motioned to adjourn at 7:46 pm; MS seconded; approved unanimously.**

Next meeting. 6-12-25 at the Morrill Library, Strafford, Vermont