

Ashley Community Forest Board - Regular Meeting FINAL Minutes

Thursday 6-12-25, 6:00 p.m.

Morrill Memorial & Harris Library; 220 Justin Morrill Hwy; Strafford, Vermont

In-Person Participants:

ACF Board: David Paganelli (DP), Kevin Gish (KG), Michael Sacca (MS)

Public: Charlie Cogbill, Malcolm McShinsky

Remote Participants:

1. Call to Order. David Paganelli called the meeting to order at 6:03.
2. Public Comments. N/A
3. Approve Minutes from 5-8-25 meeting. **MS motioned to approve the minutes from 5-8-25 as presented; DP seconded; approved unanimously.**
4. Discussion with guest, Charlie Cogbill regarding documentation of the history of the lands comprising the Ashley Community Forest. Consider asking the two town Historical Societies for assistance in researching the history of the Ashley Community Forest.
 - Charlie is a self-described “vagabond academic”: Charlie described his background, great interest in discovering legacy and reconstructing what happened and what is going on today; this affects what happens going forward.
 - Historic ecology.
 - Water, forestry
 - Hubbard Brook
 - More recently working with original survey records – 100 acre parcels, etc.
 - “Proprietor’s Record” in many town land records
 - Original grid map
 - Overall goal is to expand knowledge of history: find trees
 - Ag Census Records (1850-1880), also Manufacturing Census
 - Lots of book references
 - Title Chain: connect ownership through time, Beer’s/Walling’s Gazeteer, can go from Proprietor’s Record” forward or go backwards. All surveys are recorded in Town records. We should have access to all survey records.
 - MS explained possibility of using Vital Communities funding for this project and also ed program with Meg Teachout.
 - UVM Consulting Archeology and Landscape Analysis groups may be useful.
 - Charlie thinks the scale of Ashley is manageable, and wants to help us!
 - Charlie is very interested in mentoring others to research.
 - “Those Who Stayed Behind” – Chelsea, Civil War history
 - Check if surveyor has CAD or SHAPE file
 - Census records are in Hanover, NH and Montpelier
 - Next steps for ACF board: We gather some background info: Historic Societies, Conserv. Comms, Towns, interested individuals (Paul K., Steve Faccio, Tyler Robinson, Micki Colbeck?)
 - This conversation went on for nearly 1.5 hrs.
5. All subsequent agenda items were tabled.

6. Adjourn. **KG motioned to adjourn at 7:30; MS seconded; approved unanimously.**

Next meeting. 7-10-25 at the Sharon Town Office; Sharon, Vermont.