

MINUTES

Ashland County Forestry and Recreation Committee

Ashland County Forestry Department Office
304 West Michigan St., Butternut, WI 54514

July 7, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Gary Mertig at 8:00 a.m.

Members present: Gary Mertig, Carl Kubley, Pat Daoust, Marty Vitek and Kathy Schutte.

Others present: County Board Chairperson, Pete Russo; ACSA, Bill Chandler; DNR Tech., Andy Oberto; DNR Team Leader, Eric Serrine; Assistant Forest Administrator, Matt S.; Forester, Jerome Watochek; Secretary, Marion Pohl; Robert Rybak and Randy Smart.

The minutes of the June 2, 2016 meeting were approved with a motion by Pat Daoust, seconded by Kathy Schutte. Motion carried.

Robert Rybak came to the meeting to ask for financial help to replace the fence around the softball and baseball field at the Butternut Park. The project cost \$8,450.⁰⁰. Robert R. is asking for \$4,000.⁰⁰. After looking through the project costs, the Committee discovered that according to the grant application, this project is only eligible for \$2,000.⁰⁰. In the grant application, the written explanation does not match the example. Looking back at the last project that a grant was given, the grant equaled the amount asked for, not half like the example showed. After some discussion, the Committee said in the best interest of everyone, the language of the grant needs to be made clearer before the Committee could approve the Butternut Park's request of \$4,000.⁰⁰. Pat D. suggested tabling the Butternut Park Fence Project to the August meeting so that the grant application language can be cleared up first.

Robert said he really wanted to get the new fence installed before Butternut Pioneer Days at the end of July. The Committee said Robert could get the fenced installed now, as the grant request will be approved.

A motion was made by Kathy Schutte, seconded by Carl Kubley to table the Butternut Area Park request of \$4,000.⁰⁰ for a fence project, and to have this project on the August agenda. Motion carried. The grant application language change will be made first.

Snowmobile trail business - Bill C. discussed the county ordinance that appeared in the Ashland Press. Many people are wondering if all the county highways are going to be open to ATVs because of the way the ordinance was worded in the paper. Gary M. said the ordinance was meant specifically for a portion of County Highway GG where the Forest Service had shut down the trail. People wanted to use GG instead to keep going on the trail. Gary said that County Highway Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, and approval to use part of County Highway GG will be voted on at that time. This involves six-tenths (0.6) of a mile on GG.

Also, Bill said the Forest Service closed the Dead Horse Run Trail to Cayuga for the summer because of poor trail rebuilding by the Forest Service.

DNR Tech report - Andy O. reported that the DNR has met their time requirements working on the county forest for the fiscal year. Andy introduced the new DNR Team Leader, Eric Serrine, to everyone. Eric is working out of the Mellen office for Ashland and Iron counties.

Forest Administrator report - Assistant Forest Administrator, Matt S., reported that there are three (3) active sales, two (2) County sales and the Butternut Village Forest sale. The woods are fairly wet, soft shoulders on the roads. The timber markets are tight, and the mills are full. The timber sale revenue is at \$525,735.⁰⁰.

Gary M. reviewed that Matt will talk to Chris about having the grant application changes ready for the next meeting.

The vouchers were approved and signed with a motion by Pat Daoust, seconded by Kathy Schutte. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, August 4, 2016, 8:00 a.m., Forestry Department Office, Butternut, Wisconsin.

Kathy S. commented that the County is working on a noise ordinance because of the recent concert held in Highbridge.

The meeting was adjourned with a motion by Kathy Schutte, seconded by Marty Vitek. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:02 a.m.

Submitted by
Marion Pohl