

MINUTES
Ashland County Forestry and Recreation Committee
Ashland County Forestry Department Office
304 West Michigan St., Butternut, WI 54514
November 2, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Gary Mertig at 9:00 AM.

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

Others present: ACSA-Bill Chandler, County Board Chairperson-Pete Russo, DNR Liaison-Tom Piikkila, DNR Team Leader-Eric Serrine, Assistant Forest Administrator-Matt Schultz, Forester-Jerome Wotachek, Secretary-Marion Pohl.

The minutes of October 6, 2016 meeting were approved with a motion by Pete Russo, second by Kathy Schutte. Motion carried.

Snowmobile/ATV Trail Business - Bill C. reported the 2 bridges damaged in the July flood will be placed after Thanksgiving. In the Town of Marengo the trail will be detoured onto the town roads for 2 years.

Bill also said the bridge abutments placed on the Bad River trail were damaged in the flood will be paid for by FEMA .

Gary M. asked if people will know about the trail detours and closures. Bill said there will be signs put up; the new map and internet will have the information.

Gary M. also asked about the trail on Ball's field, if that is a permanent trail or temporary trail. Bill said the trail is permanent now.

The next item on the agenda was for approval of a resolution for snowmobile trail funding. Matt said the resolution had a wrong date on it, and the resolution will on the December agenda instead.

DNR Liaison's report - Tom P. reported that he completed a 25 acre sale in the Town of Jacobs and did some cruising of timber. Tom also reported that the new DNR Chief of Forestry is Fred Pouba.

Forest Administrator's report - Chris H. was absent. Matt S. discussed the 2017 Work Plan. Matt asked for the Committee's approval of the plan. A motion was made by Pete Russo, second by Kathy Schutte to approve the 2017 Work Plan and to present the Work Plan to the full County Board at their next meeting. Motion carried.

Matt asked the Committee for their approval to advertise 6 timber sales for bids. A motion was made by Pat Daoust, second Pete Russo to approve advertising 6 timber sales for bids. Motion carried.

Matt asked the Committee for their approval of the 50 Cents/Acre Loan for 2017. This is a DNR loan the Forestry Department receives and is paid back with 20% of the timber sale stumpage reported to the DNR. A motion was made by Pete Russo, second by Marty Vitek to approve the 2017 50 cents/Acre Loan resolution and to present the resolution to the full County Board at their next meeting. Motion carried.

Matt reported that there are 4 active sales now. The woods conditions are very wet. One sale is completed, but the wood is decked until conditions freeze up to haul the wood.

Gary M. discussed the birch gatherings. Matt commented that Recreation Officer Jim Clapero is aware of the birch gathering situation and adjusts his schedule to track down the gatherers. Matt said he heard that maple twigs are also being cut.

Kathy S. commented that the "Trunk-n-Treat" at the Marengo Mural Park was a success with over 200 kids coming for treats.

Kathy S. discussed the idea of having a Christmas luncheon at the next committee meeting on December 7th. The other Committee members were not interested.

The vouchers were approved and signed with a motion by Kathy Schutte, second by Pete Russo. Motion carried.

The next Forestry and Recreation Committee meeting will be Wednesday, December 7, 2016, 9:00 AM, at the Forestry Department Office, Butternut, WI.

The meeting was adjourned with a motion by Pete Russo, second by Kathy Schutte. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:25 AM.

Submitted by
Marion Pohl