

Land Conservation Ad-Hoc Ash Creek Community Forest Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 7th, 2019

The Ad-Hoc meeting was called to order at 1:00pm by Chairman Steve Williamson. Those present were Steve Williamson, Melissa Luck, Chad Cosgrove, Ken Anderson, Juli Van Cleve, DNR, Todd Kenefick, DNR and Tammy Cannoy-Bender.

Motion made by Chad Cosgrove to approve the agenda & proof of publication; second made by Melissa Luck
Motion carried.

Chairman Steve Williamson approved the January minutes as mailed.

Define Trails: Juli has had a chance to go out to GPS some of the trails (snow has made it difficult). There has been a lot of snowshoeing happening to make things a little easier. People are using the trails. Juli handed out maps that she has gps'd. She asked the committee if they would like the trails marked by color or name. Everything that she has on the map in a solid color is a wider path that what accommodate an emergency ATV if needed. The other dash lines are more of a walking path. She did not walk the yellow path around the plantation, she drew this in just based on the photo. It was mentioned at this point that color coding the trail is the best way to go. The trails that are currently getting mowed are some of the logging roads in the woods. Melissa was asking if we have made the trails or if people have just made their own trails. Juli replied that some of the trails are maintained and some of the logging roads that are shaded do not have a lot of overgrowth. She did not see any large washouts of the logging roads. The black trail on the map is the main valley trail. Steve mentioned that he has a person that does all the signing for Hartung at a reasonable price. This signing system can be nailed to trees. The foot paths that are marked on the map that Juli handed out are currently marked with paint and would need a better marking system come Summer. The map that Juli handed out to the committee is to scale. Steve than said that he would get quotes for the main sign to be placed at the main entrance that will have the map on the sign along with the rules of the Ash Creek Forest. Melissa stated that the map Juli handed out would go great on a tri-fold brochure. The trails can also be rated, the black trail is easy the rest of the trails not so much. There use to be a bridge to cross the creek however it has been washed out with the flood events that have happened this last year. The bridge is something that we could add to the wish list for the trails. There are some areas on the property that need to be noted on the map that will eventually be posted at the main entrance. We need to walk more of the trails, have a solar light at the main parking lot, categorize the trails, with percentage of slope, disclaimers to brochure that all trails are rugged. People need to not create new trails. Need to have it noted on the brochure & main map that people need to stay on designated trails. Also need to make note that the trails are multi-use trails and need to be shared with all users.

Melissa Luck asked if there is money to spend on all of what we are talking about. Ken Anderson replied to her that yes, we do have money in the Ash Creek Fund.

The goals from 1999 will be on the next agenda.

Signs, the rules of the property need to be noted at all 3 entrances. Smaller signs at the back entrances and a large sign at the main entrance with both the map and rules. The large sign for the map should be approximately 3'x6' and a smaller sign for the rules and a place for the brochures. The material for the sign depending on cost would either be aluminum or a di-bond (hard plastic). Also need to mark the boundaries of the property with private property boundaries. The signs will need to be put out for bid. The other 2 signs should be placed later.

Update of Ordinance; Rules of Ash Creek Community Forest; 1. Motor vehicles Prohibited except for those authorized. 2. Hours of use. 1 hour before sunrise to 1 hour after sunset. 3. Fires are prohibited except in designated picnic areas for cooking purposes only. 4. Shooting Weapons only during designated hunting seasons. 5. Harvesting of Trees is prohibited, unless authorized by the Land Conservation Committee. 6. No Littering (Carry in Carry out all trash). 7. Refer to ordinance 1992-14 (amended) for complete rules penalties & enforcement.

Ken has the plan put together for the dam/parking lot, this will be discussed at the full committee meeting on Monday 3/11/19. Will need to talk with the township regarding a driveway for the parking lot.

Melissa has a grant opportunity that is due by May 1st if we would like to apply for it. She will get something put together for the April meeting

Next meeting date is April 12th, 2019 at 10:30 a.m.

Motion made by Melissa Luck to adjourn, second made by Chad Cosgrove. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 2:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Williamson tcb

Steve Williamson
Land Conservation Chair

SW/tcb