

MINUTES
Ashland County Forestry and Recreation Committee
Ashland County Forestry Department
304 West Michigan Street, Butternut, WI 54514
March 1, 2023

Members Present: Marty Vitek, Kathy Schutte, Louis Carl, John Weiner
Members absent: Gary Mertig

Others present: Forest Administrator Chris Hoffman, Assistant Forest Administrator Tom Ernst, Forestry Office Manager Shana Curry, Ron Sztynodor, Avery Jehnke

Present on Zoom: Pat Daoust, Ryan Peaslee, Bruce Joanis

Kathy Schutte called the meeting to order at 8:59 A.M. and took roll call.

Motion by Louis C. to approve the March 1, 2023 agenda. 2nd by Marty V. Motion Carried.

Chamber of Commerce - JoAnn Ericson is filling in for Mary McPhetridge. Mary is talking with Kelly Meredith to update the mural book throughout the county. It should be ready by 4/26/23. The chamber is up for an award for the Wisconsin Rural Partners. She handed out copies of the budget breakdown. A new visitor guide came out. They are working on events for this year.

No public comment.

John W asked that the meeting minutes be amended to add a line after the reconvene into open session to suggest that the forestry committee recommends moving the purchase of property onto the finance committee. Motion to amend and approve by Marty V. 2nd by John W. Motion carried.

No Fishery report.

No Wildlife report.

Avery Jehnke states that they are trying to get out into the county forest between all the snow fall. They have set up a couple of timber sales since that last meeting. They have a couple more to set up in time for Spring. White River Wildlife Area is working on improving the trail system to help it more manageable for disabled hunters. They are gearing up for the spring fire season.

Ron Sztynodor gave the snowmobile/ATV report. He states that the Clam Lake building has been paid off. They are looking at purchasing a new 2018 tucker. They put down a down payment for it. They are looking for a building in Mellen for the groomer.

Bruce Joanis gave the recreation report. He states that the trails were good this year and it's the best it has been since he has started. There were a few crashes/injuries, but no fatalities.

Chris gave the administrators reports. He asked for a motion to bid timber sales in June. Kathy S. made the motion. 2nd by Louis C. Motion carried.

He then discussed the Species and Habitat and Conservation Agreement. This add guidelines to the logging process in regards to the endangered species. Motion by Marty V. 2nd by John W. Motion carried.

The final discussion by Chris was getting permission to bid a new truck to purchase for the forestry department. Motion by Louis C. 2nd by Marty V. Motion carried.

Kathy made an update about the Lake Galilee Boat landing. There will be a photo op at the next meeting.

Expense vouchers were looked at and signed by the committee.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 3, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. at the Town of Morse town hall.

Motion to adjourn by Louis C. 2nd by Louis C. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 9:58 a.m.

Submitted by Shana Curry
Ashland County Forestry and Recreation Office Manager