

MINUTES
Ashland County Forestry and Recreation Committee
Ashland County Forestry Department
304 West Michigan Street, Butternut, WI 54514
January 4, 2023

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

Others present: Forest Administrator Chris Hoffman, Assistant Forest Administrator Tom Ernst, Forestry Office Manager Shana Curry, Pat Daust, Richard Pufall, Jason Folstad

Present on Zoom: Mary McPhetridge, Dan Grady, Avery Jenke, Rich Huber

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

Motion by Gary M. to approve the January 4, 2023 agenda. 2nd by Marty V. Motion Carried.

Chamber of Commerce - Mary McPhetridge is attending via zoom. She states that she has been in contact with Pat Daust for the snowmobile reports. They are working on the visitor guides and getting ready for 2023. The Ashland County tourism committee is having issues with finding someone from Glidden or Mellen.

No public comment.

John W asked that the meeting minutes be amended to add climate change.

Motion by Gary W to approve the December 7, 2022 meeting minutes after amendment. 2nd by Louis C. Motion Carried.

Jason Folstad gave the fishery report. He stated that in 2022 they did mostly Ashland County for stocking. Reports will be written up this winter. They are doing a musky population study in Mineral Lake this year. They will be back in Ashland County in 2024-2025.

He also gave the wildlife report. He stated that they will be trapping elk in Butternut this winter.

Avery Jenke said that they completed 1 sale in December, but the snow is making it difficult to get into the woods. He is meeting with the foresters tomorrow 1/5 to get spring sales ready. They are talking about doing a timber sale on the Mellen School Forest.

There was early snow for snowmobiling, which was too heavy and did damage on trails. They had to do a lot of brush cutting. Trails were opened last Thursday. All trails have been groomed.

No recreation report.

Convened into closed session. Motion by Marty V. 2nd by John W. Motion carried.

Reconvene into open session. Motion by Marty V. 2nd by Kathy S. Motion carried.

Forestry Committee recommends moving the purchase of property onto the finance committee.

Chris H provided the Forest Administrators update. He stated that they have been busy in the forest due to the amount of active timber sales. Wood markets are improving.

John asked Chris about getting a recreation park in Ashland County.

Kathy told everyone that the people at the Lake Galilee boat landing were happy with the updates that were done thanks to the Forestry Dept and the Highway Dept. Kathy invited the committee to go do a photo op at the boat landing.

Expense vouchers were approved and signed with a motion by Marty V. 2nd by Kathy S. Motion carried.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 1, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

Motion to adjourn by John W. 2nd by Louis C. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 10:34 a.m.

Submitted by Shana Curry
Ashland County Forestry and Recreation Office Manager