

MINUTES

Ashland County Forestry and Recreation Committee
Ashland County Forestry Dept Office
304 West Michigan St, Butternut, WI 54514
November 7, 2018

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

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

Members Absent: Pat Daoust (Excused)

Others present: Pete Russo, DNR Team Leader-Eric Sirrine, DNR Sara Stack, Bill Chandler, Mary McPhetridge, Town of Gordon Officials, Neal and Barb Wegner, Don Wohlleben, Forest Adm-Chris Hoffman, Secretary-Tom Ernst

The minutes of the August 5, 2017 meeting were approved with a motion by Marty Vitek, second by Kathy Schutte. Motion carried

Guest- Mary M said the tourism department is doing great; they have created a new water-fall brochure that is doing well throughout the north woods. Town of Gordon officials were here to discuss the clam lake dam and the handicap dock on Gordon Lake. Doug Thorp stated that they do not use all the \$500.00 in funds that are given to them from the county for clearing and cleaning of the dam in Clam Lake, and were asking if they could use some of the left over funds to offset charges that are occurring with the handicap dock on Gordon Lake. Due to high water this summer, the dock kept shifting and floating away and a company had to come in and reset the dock. A motion was made to let Town of Gordon use funds for dock. Motion made by Kathy Schutte second by Carl Kubley. Motion Carried

Gay Palecek was here to discuss atv/utv trail on established snowmobile trail on the mudline and use it as a dual use trail. Gary Mertig stated that he is working on a trail resolution that would allow atv/utv travel on County road F from Elm road to the Ashland-Iron County line. If the resolution does not pass, they will bring it up in following meetings to try and establish a trail from Ashland to Iron County. It was brought up that atv/utv is becoming very popular and that Ashland County should try and capitalize on it for tourism. Doug Thorp commented that there is a piece of trail on Hwy 77 from forest road 195 into Clam Lake and that there haven't been any accidents or calls and complaints. It was noted that Highway Commissioner Emmer Shields is not fond of having atv/utv on county highway

blacktop, believes that it is a safety issue. Pete Russo discussed of trail on the Canadian Nation railroad grade, but that will be something that will come up in the future. It was stated that there were 100,000 more registrations the previous year of atv/utv than there were of snowmobiles.

Snowmobile/ATV Business – Bill C- Bill stated that there was a section of trail lost between Amsler road and Bush road. The land owner stated that they could run the power line, but it is swampy and would take a lot of work to get done. There are washouts in the Marengo area but are being worked on. There will be some re-routing of trails due to road work, but everything should go as normal. Bill said that there are a lot of trails that are under water and could make it difficult for trail work this winter.

Recreation Officer's report - No Report

DNR Fisheries Report- No Report

DNR Wildlife Report- No Report

DNR Forester's report – Sara stated that it is very slow in the woods, they have been making timber and conducting pre and post-sale recon. She stated that the timber sales are out and ready for bids.

Forest Adm's report - Chris H said the woods are wet and not much going on. Chris asked for approval to put timber sales up for bid. Motion by Kathy Schutte Second by Carl Kubley. Motion Carried
Chris also discussed the annual work plan and resolution for work on snowmobile trails for the 2018-2019 season. Pete R. asked about a parking fee for Second landing, Chris stated that we will be working on that this winter. Chris also mentioned that due to the very wet conditions in the woods there will be very little to no logging going on the rest of the month.

Any other Business- No!

Approval and sign expense vouchers- motion by Marty Vitek, second by Kathy Schutte. Motion carried.

The next Forestry and Recreation Committee meeting will be Wednesday, December 5, 2018 at 9:00 AM.

The meeting was adjourned with a motion by Pete Russo, second by Kathy Schutte. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 AM.

Submitted by
Tom Ernst

