

Land Stewardship Committee Meeting Minutes
November 16, 2011
Acton Town Hall

Regular (voting) members present: Bettina Abe, Joan Cirillo, Dave Cochrane, Philip Keyes, Ann Shubert (minute taker), Jim Snyder-Grant (chair), Laurie Ullmann

Associate (nonvoting) members present: Bob Guba, Bruce Rachman, Heidi Sikina

Nonmembers present: Tom Tidman (Natural Resources Director and Town Liaison)

Meeting minutes: The October minutes were approved.

Postcard for guidebook: The Committee approved the concept of leaving the postcard at places like EMS and the library. The guidebook will be sold only at Town Hall as we do not have many of them. The size and design of the postcard may be adjusted. Tom Tidman and Bettina will work on this.

Review of Quail Ridge plans: Pulte Homes will start working on the trail once they own the land. Bob set up the guidelines for the trail, which includes a 170' boardwalk. He wants to know if the Pulte engineers agree with his plan. There will be an additional easement/access off Skyline Drive. This easement/access will have a parking area, which will be good for attending to any maintenance that may be necessary. We need to confer with Pulte Homes regarding the plans that Bob gave them; they need to verify the house footprints; and we will suggest that it would be wise to have a kiosk at the parking lot.

Review of Steward Expectations document: This document was reviewed about two years ago and is now being reviewed again. Among items discussed, Bob stated that when there is a blowdown people must be clear as to exactly where it is and any safety issues associated with it. Also, it is very important to prevent trail braiding. The steward of the property should immediately block such trails. The Committee moved to accept the document.

Open Meeting Law: The Committee is doing well with the Open Meeting Law. If there is an issue the powers that be will come to us and we will have a chance to respond. The minutes must be saved. If it is perceived that someone is overstepping the line, the Chair will privately tell that person to cease and desist.

Committee email exchanges: If a Committee member responds to an email, the response should sound like it is from the entire Committee.

Scoutland update: Laurie contacted Bill Klauer, who told him to go ahead and get the plan for crossing the Scoutland and he will take it up with his Trustees. It was noted that the Scoutland is next to Town Land. Philip will flag the proposed trail.

Chainsaw training and equipment: Dean Charter recommended that the training be done through the Town insurance company. Bettina will ask Andrea for a place to hold the training as well as getting a certified instructor. People from other towns could also attend the training session. Chaps and helmets are needed. Some people wish to keep such gear at their home. It will be determined whether the individual or the Town buys such gear.

Parcel reports: Charlie Carlson sent an email saying that the 8th graders worked with him at Pratt's Brook on Community Service Day. They did a great job of clearing the land in the blueberry barrens

area. The Brewster Lane entrance to Pratt's Brook and the Camp Acton driveway are both very rutted and need to be filled.

Brief meeting evaluation: This month Jim liked having fewer agenda items. Philip liked the way people stayed on point, but felt the pace of the meeting could be increased.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 21, at 4:00 PM.

Documents that serve as background for these discussions can be found at <https://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-4566> . These documents are titled:

- 00 - 2011 November 16 Agenda
- 01 - 2011 October minutes
- 02 - postcard-draft (2).pdf
- 03 - trail plans to JSG 11-10-11 for review
- 040 - Steward Expectations - 2010
- 041 - Steward Expectations 2010 jec 2011 edits
- 042 - Steward Expectations 2010 jec 2011 edits - clean
- 06 - Email exchange with Mark Hald re: email archives
- 07 - Scoutland map
- 080 - chainsaw training updates
- 081 - Chainsaw safety gear order
- 09 - Parcel Updates