

Land Stewardship Committee Meeting Minutes
June 16, 2010, 4:00 PM
Acton Town Hall

Present: Bettina Abe, Joan Cirillo, Dave Cochrane, Josh Haines, Philip Keyes, Peggy Liversidge, Rich Rhode, Ann Shubert (minute-taker), Heidi Sikina, Jim Snyder-Grant (chair), Tom Tidman, Laurie Ullmann

Minutes: The May meeting minutes were approved.

Volunteer appreciation party: This party will be held in the Common House at Half Moon Hill on Saturday, June 26, from 5:00 to 7:30 PM. Jim will purchase the food and would like someone to assist him in this task; Bettina offered to help. Tom Arnold will be in charge of getting the grill going.

Invasives: The garlic mustard picking season is over. There is still some around, mostly at Camp Acton. Ten people participated in pulling up the plant. It takes about five years of such picking to eradicate it. Jim said he found this year that plastic bags are better than paper bags for collecting the invasives.

Norway maples are another invasive species. Hundreds of the trees have been girdled at the Arboretum. Once girdled they die in place and are left to decay. There was some discussion concerning this practice as it could present a safety issue if the tree is too close to a path and aesthetically it is not appealing if the girdled trees are too obvious. Jim suggested that trees to be girdled should be located a certain distance away from a path. He will investigate doing this at the Pacy Land and will come back with a proposal.

Open Meeting Law (OML): Committee members will not be individually fined if not abiding by OML rules. It falls on the Town. Members will be invited to an informational meeting to discuss the OML. We will revisit this issue after September.

Meadow management: Maya Spies and Terra Friedrichs are interested in meadow management. Jim will work with them. Tom suggested that the following be decided: Where are the meadows in Acton? What does meadow management mean? He also thought it would be beneficial to get an Audubon person in to discuss meadows and how best to care for them. Once the group has done their research they will report back to LSCom and Tom.

Parcel news: Conservation areas were briefly discussed. (1) It was determined that Bob Guba needs help with the mowing. (2) *Nashoba Brook* needs some boardwalk augmentation. The deadline for getting money for boardwalk supplies is the end of June; after that the money comes from the next year's budget. (3) The new trail connecting *Nagog Hill* to the Acorn neighborhood has been marked. Orange tape is on the boundary between Nagog Hill and Quail Ridge, and 20 feet from the orange tape is yellow tape. The blue tape marks the trail going through this corridor.

Guidebooks: Peggy has started a master list of changes to the guidebook. Lynn Horsky, who helped design and produce the 2003 edition, has been away in Japan; she will return soon, at which time her master files will be available.

Stewards should read the current guidebook giving info about their area and should decide whether or not changes need to be made. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Next meeting: The meeting was adjourned at 5:30. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 21.