

Acton
Land Stewardship Committee (LSC) Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 21, 2020, Town Hall, Room 9, 7 P.M.

Attendees (in bold)

Regular (voting) members: **Dale Chayes, Bob Farra, Zanna Gruber** (Vice-Chair), **Joe Holmes, Bruce Rachman** (Chair), **Laurie Ullmann**, John Watlington, **Joe Will** (Minutes)

Associate (nonvoting) members: Larry Boisvert, Andy Gatesman, Josh Haines, Philip Keyes, Gary Kilpatrick, Nan Towle Millett, Aaron Moore, Jim Salem, Sherman Smith, Jason Temple, Todd Tsakiris

Others:

Bettina Abe (Acton Natural Resources Assistant)

1. Opening

Bruce opened the meeting at 7:01 p.m. with a quorum of 6 voting members present — Dale, Bob, Joe H, Bruce, Laurie, Joe W.

2. Regular Business

Review and approval of December 17 minutes

Approval was moved and voted unanimously.

Citizens' concerns

There was much discussion on how to recognize work done for the LSC and the Town of Acton by Bob Guba, who announced his retirement from the LSC at the December meeting. To be continued.

Parcel Issues

• Nagog Hill

There is not much new on the orienteering maps. Jon Campbell is still “plugging away” on them. One aim is to put in orienteering markers in the spring. The Town has mowed part of the two small meadows abutting the stone wall. The meadow east of the wall is nicely mowed. On the other side of the wall, the Town mowed part of the neighbor’s land instead of the conservation land. It did not mow the large meadow behind Hybrid Farm. The Hybrid Farm owner, Rita McConnon Rogers, lives in Maine now, but sends reports to the Town, and has an overseer on site. The number of horses is down to 22. Dale has been in contact with the farm folks about work that needs to be done next to the parcel and is willing to work with them to get it done. Bettina will send them an email on this, and also remind the Town about mowing the large meadow, which is “wildly overgrown.” Dale, a scout, and the scout’s father did a lot of tree cleanup on the parcel. The Egg Rock area is not cleaned up yet. Dale will have a Cub Scout troop do bluebird boxes for the meadows.

• Camp Acton

Things seem fine. Bruce walked the perimeter and picked up dead wood.

• Stoneymeade

The LSC may need a new steward for this parcel as current steward is experiencing some physical limitations. Bettina will pursue this.

• Robbins Mill

Bob described 3 broken trees that sawyers need to deal with. Also, Bob has been “going back and forth” with the gas company and the work it wants to do along the gas line. The gas company will try to

do the work soon, possibly in the coming week. But there could be problems in doing the work at this time of year as Bob could have difficulty moving the bridges that cross over the gas line.

- Spring Hill

Dale described a tree down.

The Robbins Mill and Spring Hill trees mentioned above are to be put on the sawyers' spreadsheet.

- Morrison Farm

Per Bettina: There is little plaque to put up in the tool shed to recognize the donors of the shed, but this has yet to be done.

- Other

Bruce circulated the Volunteer Project List, asking that any additions be noted. Current plans include scouts doing a boardwalk at Guggins Brook and possibly bog bridges on very wet portions at Nashoba Brook. Bruce reminded the LSC that it can still provide tasks for the schools' Senior and 8th Grade service projects.

Website issues

The Town has moved the LSC website to its .gov page. Points made in the ensuing discussion.

- The Town wants the LSC website url to be .gov because it's already registered.
- Both the old and new url "work" right now.
- Jim Snyder-Grant owns the dns site for another year. Jim will do what's needed until June.
- Peggy Sestrich is taking over from Jim and she will do content.
- Bettina has met with Peggy and says Peggy has found ways to make the site "prettier".
- All QR codes will have to be reprinted and replaced.
- Google "Acton Trails" right now and you will go to the current (old) website. If it's to be a .gov website, it will be harder to find . . . for a while.
- Put a message on old website that there is a new website until it gets better a year or two from now.

New map features

At Wills Hole/Town Forest, Joe H completed blazing of the blue trail from where it meets, then crosses the pedestrian walkway northwards to the yellow trail. The map shows the complete blue trail. Re the short trail connecting Harris Street to the Captain Handley Road red trail: Is it okay to blaze it red? Joe pointed out that it is on Town Conservation Land. Also, he had talked with Bob Guba who said that since it comes out on a sidewalk, it should be blazed. Verdict: If it's red on the map (which it is), it should be blazed.

3. New/Special Business

LSC 2019 Annual Report

This wasn't sent to the LSC. It goes into the Town of Acton's Annual Report that one gets at Town Meeting.

4. Additional Regular Business

2020 meeting schedule

Meetings will be at 7 pm on the third Tuesday of each month, as usual. Meetings will be in Town Hall Room 9, except for the October 20 meeting, which will be at the Acton Recreation Center, 50 Audubon Drive.

Next month's (February 18, 2020) agenda

No suggestions.

5. Adjournment

At 7:49 p.m., it was moved, seconded, and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 18, at 7 P.M., in Room 9.

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting

- Draft Meeting Minutes of December 17, 2019