

Land Stewardship Committee Meeting Minutes
May 16, 2012
Acton Town Hall

Regular (voting) members present: Bettina Abe, Joan Cirillo, Peggy Liversidge, Nan Towle Millett, Ann Shubert (minute taker), Jim Snyder-Grant, Laurie Ullmann

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

Nonmembers present: Tom Tidman (Director of Natural Resources and LSCom's Town staff liaison), Janet Adachi (LSCom's Board of Selectmen liaison)

Meeting minutes: The April minutes were approved after Peggy made one small correction to the draft sent out on May 1: In the Camp Acton permit and parking issues item, Joan made a further correction, noting that her email about suggested changes to the Camp Acton permit, dated 3/12/12, was sent to Bruce and Jim, not just to Jim.

Summer projects: There will be a summer volunteer fair at the high school on June 5. Jim will advertise LSCom jobs at the fair. Possible jobs could be wood chipping at Guggins and at Grassy Pond and weeding at the Arboretum with Bettina.

Bench policy: Jim has been working with the Natural Resources Department to have them write up some proposed changes to the bench policy related to cost calculations, maintenance expectations, and other administrative matters. The LSCom looked over a copy of these changes. Committee members were willing to continue to participate in the bench program if some or all of these changes were accepted by the ConsCom. Joan has concerns with the language used. Jim encouraged her to find a way to express these concern to the ConsCom. Joan asked the committee for feedback with respect to some earlier comments from the ConsCom about the bench policy. Regarding our response, we don't think the Town wants to turn the conservation areas into parks. Possibly there could be tree donations with only a limited number of benches. Another way to donate would be tree donations for town streets. Bruce suggested that bat boxes could be donated with the hope of decreasing the mosquito population.

Sachem Way to Will's Hole: Jim talked to Kelly Cronin, Executive Director of the Acton Housing Authority, concerning a possible trail that would connect the new Sachem Way housing development to Will's Hole. There is already a trail to Nonset Path. A homeowner complained about access and the Town put up a sign. Before reaching that sign a left can be taken through the woods and in 20-30 yards come to the back edge of the Sachem Way development. In the fall we can flag a trail. Construction of the trail could possibly be a Scout troop project. There is no parking here but it is fine for pedestrians. No trail will be put in until the construction is done.

Committee member reappointments: Heidi Sikina is leaving LSCom as she is moving to Harvard in two months. Tom Arnold would like someone else to take Heidi's place as he cannot take care of Nagog Conservation area by himself. Everyone else who has a term ending in June 2012 (all associates and three full committee members) will be proposed by Jim to be reappointed.

It is important to go to the Town Hall to get sworn in after you are reappointed. You will get a reminder email from Town Hall during the summer.

Summer event: A decision will be made in June regarding a summer party and summer meetings. Jim will contact Tom Arnold about being in charge of the volunteer appreciation event. We recalled that last year it was in the fall. Peggy suggested not doing grilling again as it is too time-consuming for the grillers. The event might be held at NARA or at Half Moon Hill.

LSCom clothing: Tom T. brought up the possibility of ordering shirts with logo for Committee members. Joan prefers a collared shirt as it offers better protection against bugs. Bettina will send an email to find out the type of shirt most people prefer. The shirts would be green.

Parcel reports: Bettina needs help eliminating knotweed at the Canoe Launch. She will send out a work schedule.

Camp Acton: Bruce said that the access road from Pope Road is getting overgrown and has a lot of poison ivy. Also, the access road needs regrading. Shawn is busy through Memorial Day.

Bob said that he was unsure if getting gas for the mowers from the Highway Department is still okay. He will talk to Tom about it.

Guggins: Jim said that the boardwalks at Guggins are slippery when wet. Joan suggested using a paint that includes sand. Ann suggested using wire over the boardwalk. It was also suggested that 20 Mule Team Borax could be shaken around to remove moss, which can be slippery.

Scout projects: Bettina reported on current Scout projects. They are as follows:

- Ethan Pales is going to build bat boxes.
- Tom Russell will cut the switchback trail on the east side of Great Hill.
- David Quantrille will build boardwalks at Guggins. His project will be reviewed by Bob.
- Michael Kilpatrick will build a boardwalk at Grassy Pond.
- Greg Rachman will do extensive corduroying on a wet section of the yellow trail at Grassy Pond.

Bob suggested that Greg could get started by getting the wood cut and stacking it by the trail. There are two very large piles of wood chips at the Willis Holden entrance to Grassy Pond that he can use. Meanwhile, Bettina will tell the residents living near that entrance that they can use some of those chips if needed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 20.

Documents that serve as background for these discussions can be found at <http://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-4848>. They are titled:

- 0 – LSC Agenda 2012 05 16
- 1 – LSCom draft minutes 2012 04 11
- 2 – ABRHS Summer Volunteer Fair – emails
- 3.1 – Bench Policy – as recommended by LSCom 10-19-11 – NR Proposed Changes – Clean.doc
- 3.2 – Bench Policy – as recommended by LSCom 10-19-11 – NR Proposed Changes – Redline.doc
- 3.3 – Recent LSC emails about bench policy
- 4 – Sachem Way connection
- 5 – Tentative Committee Appointments
- 6 – Parcel Updates