

Land Stewardship Committee Meeting Minutes
September 19, 2012, 4:00 PM
Acton Town Hall

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

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

Nonmembers present: Janet Adachi (LSCom's Board of Selectmen liaison)

Meeting minutes: The July meeting minutes were approved. (There was no August meeting.)

Quail Ridge trail update: Melissa Simoncini of the Concord Water District walked the new Quail Ridge trail. She is concerned about people walking onto the Concord Water District land. Pedestrian signs are needed that will show the access to and from the new trail built by Pulte Homes on the edge of the golf course. A sign should be put close to Hazelnut Street for access from the Acorn Park neighborhood. The new trail will be a red trail and it needs blazing. We may have an event to announce the opening of this trail.

8 Green Community Service Day and Vertex (company) service project: The Vertex service day (Vertex Pharmaceuticals, Cambridge) is scheduled for September 28, the same day as the 8th graders' service day. Tom Arnold will work with them at Nagog cutting back rose bushes from the Grassy Pond parking lot down to the boardwalk by the meadow and growing over the boardwalk. The Vertex people will also work at the Capt. Handley Road access trail at Wills Hole/Town Forest and at NARA. Joan will supervise the chipping at Nagog, which will extend from the Nagog parking lot to the small boardwalk. Jim will supervise an 8th-grade crew at Guggins. Ann will supervise chipping at the Newtown Road entrance to Grassy Pond. Bob said that chipping is needed at Pratt's Brook in the wet area at the site of the corduroy. This is accessed from the Parker Street entrance.

Volunteer appreciation event: This event will be held on Saturday, October 13, at 25 Half Moon Hill. Tom Arnold is in charge. He said that there will be no grilling of hamburgers; it will be a potluck supper.

Proposed new Trail Through Time (TTT) trail at Nashoba Brook: Linda McElroy has proposed clearing and making a trail to a second group of stone piles at Nashoba Brook that are fairly close to the piles that have already been cleared. This second group is also located off the upper yellow loop, but are on the west side of the trail and a bit closer to the red trail that connects to Spring Hill. Bob suggested using the TTT trail markings for this trail. Jim will talk to Linda about how to indicate that this is a dead-end trail. He will also talk to her regarding the need to write out the meaning of the letters TTT.

Additional Nagog Hill steward: There is a need for an additional Nagog Hill steward. Elan Riesman said that he would like to do this. Elan has been a hard worker on work days. Jim is in favor of him joining the Committee.

Possible new LSCom member or volunteer: Kyle Boyd is a new resident in Acton. He is the Conservation Administrator in Tewksbury and would like to work in the Acton conservation areas. He has a good background in biology. Jim has sent his name to Bruce, Laurie, and Philip Keyes as he lives near their areas. He also sent Kyle's name to Linda McElroy as she often needs people to work.

Possible Camp Acton Scout project: There are some Scouts who want to earn their 50-mile award. They have done some community service work at the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico and have

seven hours left of community service work. Bruce has a lot of jobs for them to do at Camp Acton. Jim said that if they finish there they could go to Linda McElroy's area at Nashoba Brook.

Sign replacement: The Nagog kiosk has fallen down. Bob will direct the restoration.

"I Hiked Acton's Conservation Lands" idea: Bettina has worked out a form listing the various conservation areas in Acton. Basically she is proposing that people can earn a badge or some note of achievement by walking the yellow trails on all the Conservation properties. This program would be run by the Recreation Department.

Parcel news: Great Hill: The new trail at Great Hill has been completed and it now needs blazing.

Pratt's Brook, Great Hill: The bees bothering people at Pratt's Brook have been exterminated. There is another spot there that may need similar attention as well as one at Great Hill.

Detective Keith Campbell: Acton police detective Campbell has some kids who are ready to do community service work and will come to a future meeting.

Meeting evaluation: The last few agenda items were rushed. Laurie noted that the Committee used to write articles for the *Beacon* and suggested that we put articles on the *Patch* or in the *Beacon*.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40. The next meeting will be held at 4 PM on Wednesday, October 17.

Documents that serve as background for these discussions can be found at <http://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-5022/URL-149>. They are titled:

- 00 – LSC Agenda 2012 09 19
- 01 – LSCom minutes 2012 07 18 (docx)
- 02 – Quail Ridge/Nagog Hill Trail update
- 05 – Trail Through Time (TTT) new trail concept
- 06 – Possible new Nagog Hill co-steward
- 08 – Scout work at Camp Acton on Sep 29
- 09 – Parcel Updates
- 11 – Possible community service projects for teens