

**Land Stewardship Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**April 17, 2013**  
**Acton Town Hall**

R E C E I V E D  
JUL 1 2013

TOWN CLERK, ACTON

Regular (voting) members present: Bettina Abe, Philip Keyes, 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: Tom Tidman (Director of Natural Resources), Joe Will (Quaboag Road resident)

Meeting minutes: The final version of the draft March minutes were approved as submitted.

Siting of Trail Through Time informational kiosk: The vote was unanimous to accept placement of the new TTT Indian informational kiosk at the Nashoba Brook stone pile cluster in the location marked by Linda McElroy.

Laurie said that he and Linda met at Nashoba Brook yesterday and decided that it would be best to move the Nashoba Brook parcel entrance sign nearer to the parking area for that site. The original kiosk was decayed and the Marine Eagle Scout has built a new one.

Tentative assignments and Regular/Associate member status after June 30, 2013: Jim went through his latest proposed list of parcel assignments and Regular/Associate status to take effect after June 30, 2013, subject to the approval of the Board of Selectmen. This information is available on line – see link below.

Certificates for departing members: Tom Arnold will prepare certificates of appreciation for departing members of the Committee.

Ethics training: A recent email dated 4/16/13 from Mary deAlderete sent to “All Dept. Heads: All Boards and Committees” reminds us that “all municipal employees must complete the online ethics Training (if not already done) as soon as possible. The deadline for this training was April 5, 2013, or, if hired after that date, within 30 days of becoming a public employee.” As committee members, we are special municipal employees. Mary provided the following link in her email to assist us in complying with this requirement: <http://www.mass.gov/ethics/education-and-training-resources/implementation-procedures/revised-implementation-procedures.html>. If you have any questions, please contact the Clerk's Office.

High School Senior Service Day: The High School Senior Service Day will be on April 26. Ed Russell has volunteered to supervise a group at Guggins Brook. He will help the students to move back the boardwalk segments that were disrupted by Hurricane Sandy. Jim will be supervising a group picking garlic mustard at Great Hill.

Parcel updates: Wetherbee: Tom A. noted that a blue arrow is needed at the start of the short blue trail at Wetherbee. Also, Joe Will noted that there is an open well head at Wetherbee that should be covered. Tom Tidman will have his crew make a cover for the approximately 8' deep well after Joe gets the measurements. There is a smaller well at Wetherbee that could be filled in.

Stonemead: Nan reported that bluebirds are nesting.

*Guggins:* Guggins is getting drier but there are still many wet areas there. Jim thinks some more boardwalks are needed, especially in the area on the red entrance trail from Route 111, between the first bridge boardwalk and the split in the yellow trail. Bettina has Eagle Scouts who could make boardwalks. Philip suggested that puncheons be used instead of regular boardwalks. Puncheons are just a foot wide so they can be made quickly, and can sit on the side of the trail so they do not interfere with skiers or bicyclists, and they do not have to be used by walkers when the path is dry enough.

*Heath Hen Meadow:* Bob said that the bridge needs protection from the beavers. He and Laurie cleared out the beaver build-up only to find that the build-up was back within three or four days. Bob thinks an approximately 50' fence is needed to protect the bridge from the beavers. The hope is that by installing a fence in the water just upstream of the bridge, water and debris could flow through. The beavers dragging dam building material would stop at the fence and would build their dam there. Tom said that would be okay and that some sturdy fencing that was used at Miracle Field at NARA might be suitable here. Bob and Laurie will look at that fencing.

*Pratts Brook:* Bob said that some mountain bikers are creating new shortcut trails (“braiding”). There are areas at Pratts Brook where there are switchbacks and the mountain bikers are cutting through them. Bob has been blocking the areas where this is happening. The new steward for Pratts Brook needs to watch for such activity. Philip suggested that signs be placed where such new trails are being made.

Website updates: Jim was hoping to report that he had posted the new bench application and policy as well as the material for the Rec. Department’s program encouraging people to walk the conservation lands by giving them a badge. He has all of these materials, but has not posted them yet.

T-shirts: Bettina is ordering some forest green t-shirts for those who want them. Some sizes were collected. She will ask the committee by email who else would like a shirt, and what size they would like.

Meeting evaluation: The feeling was that the meeting was fast and good. Jim did a good job of keeping the meeting on focus.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00.

The next meeting will be held at 4 PM on Wednesday, May 15.

Documents that serve as background for these discussions can be found at <http://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-5326>. They are titled:

- 0 – Agenda for 4/17
- 1– draft LSCOM minutes 2013 03 20
- 2 – Siting of Trail Through Time informational kiosk
- 3 – new LSC kiosk location at Wheeler Lane
- 4 – LSC proposed assignments and status as of July 1 2013
- 7 – Parcel updates