

Acton  
Land Stewardship Committee (LSC) Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, May 19, 2015, Town Hall, Room 121, 7 P.M.

Attendance

Regular (voting) members present: Bettina Abe, Dave Cochrane, Bob Guba, Bruce Rachman, Jim Snyder-Grant (Chair), Laurie Ullmann, Joe Will (Minutes)

Associate (nonvoting) members present: Joe Holmes, John Watlington

Nonmembers present:

Janet Adachi (LSC's Board of Selectmen liaison), Pam Cochrane, Todd Tsarkiris

Jim called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. Bettina brought brownies. We introduced ourselves. John is not yet happy with Great Hill reroutes, so that item was deleted from the Agenda. There was an informal discussion about the Town's new position of Land Use and Economic Development Director, but since the deadline set by the Town for community input had passed, that too was deleted from the Agenda. Jim, however, will send out comments re the Director.

Review and approval of April 21 minutes

- Approval of minutes (with one spelling correction) moved and voted unanimously.

Officer updates

Jim, Bruce, Bettina, and Joe W met immediately prior to this meeting regarding this Committee's Chair. Bettina will be Chair for one year. Bruce will be Chair the second year. Third-year Chair remains to be determined. Joe will continue as Clerk. Many other committees have a similar arrangement and we can change this plan at any time. We are not imposing term limits. Everyone should think about their interest in being Chair and Vice Chair.

Some LSC members leaving, Updates on potential new stewards, and Heath Hen Meadow coverage  
LSC members going and coming:

Going: Dave, Steward for Heath Hen Meadows, and Ann Shubert, Steward for Grassy Pond. (History note: Bob and Laurie were original LSC members in '96. Bob recommended Dave. Ann was on the Conservation Committee at that time and wanted to join this type of committee.)

(While not eligible to change the Minutes, Linda McElroy offers the following historical information: Bob, Ann, Siegfried Mayer, and I were the original members. Phil and Laurie were next to join after being vetted by the first four. The remaining members were vetted and taken in one at a time after a few months to get the previously-added steward up to speed. Dave was taken in early in that process.)

Coming: Todd will be Steward for Wetherbee. (Todd is not yet sworn in, so is not yet an Associate.) Jim is meeting with Gary Kilpatrick soon re Grassy Pond, and will pass him on to the Volunteer Coordinating Committee. Jim Salem is willing to be Steward for Wright Hill.

Open Stewardships: Steward is needed for Heath Hen Meadows. In the meantime, Bruce and Sarah Rachman will walk Heath Hen Meadows every one or two weeks. Joe W would move to Morrison Farm once the LSC agrees to cover it. This would open up Wills Hole/Town Forest.

Jim: Does anybody in this room want to move? Silence. Bettina will make up "Steward Wanted" signs

for kiosks and both libraries. Bruce will make inquiry of Boy Scout troops and their Scoutmasters.

#### Conservation Land Rules update

There is a draft. The Conservation Commission (CC) has passed on it. Bettina will type it up. The recommendation is that there be an official list of Rules and Regulations with no ambiguities, and also a user-friendly list to be posted in public areas and would reference the official rules. A reason for an "official list" from the CC is that the CC has to pay attention to laws. Regulations for Conservation Lands are business of the CC and CC documents have to be detailed and precise.

The only question from the LSC (Jim) is whether the CC addressed the issue of dogs. Bettina will get back to Jim on this.

#### Trail "You are Here" holders: Whether and how to use them (Bruce)

Bettina's "wild guess": There may be 4 nice holders left. Jim will need one or more eventually when we connect Wright Hill with Guggins Brook. No one else expressed a need so there is no need to acquire more holders for now.

We need to do a better job with preparing maps so that we can better secure them to the holders. There followed a discussion on maps, a non-Agenda item.

#### Kiosk layout: What gets posted on a kiosk and where? (Laurie)

The Board of Health has sent for some from tick posters from the Centers for Disease Control. These will be a little bit larger than 8.5" by 11" but smaller than the current 9" by 12" posters.

Kiosk descriptions of blazed trails should be close to the map boxes. The boxes are located in various places at the kiosks, so there is no way to make placements of trail descriptions uniform, ergo no way to standardize a layout of kiosk postings.

What's posted at a kiosk? Conservation Land regulations, maps, introduction to the parcel, tick information, a "Leave No Trace" sign (we are experimenting with this sign for a year and then we'll revisit it), and an introduction to the LSC.

Laurie wants to remove detailed descriptions of the parcels. Bettina likes the parcel descriptions and will be happy to get them for people. However, they don't always fit on back of a parcel's map.

Does Joe H want a kiosk at the Canoe Launch? At this point, no. There could be an Assabet River map at the Canoe Launch.

There followed a discussion on kiosk building and repair, a non-Agenda item.

#### Field mower (Bruce)

The mowers that both Bob and Bruce checked out in a catalog are too big for us. For any new mower, we will need a trailer for hauling it and a home for it on Town property. The Harris Street site is not ready yet. A place to check out mowers is Richey & Clapper, Inc., on Post Road in Sudbury.

#### Using the volunteer list

We have this list with almost 100 names on it, but there has been no communication for a while. We need ideas for which we can send out challenges.

Joe H suggested a Canoe Launch parking project. For this, Joe needs to pick a workday (For Joe, a Saturday) and tell volunteers when to show up and what tools they could bring. Joe should contact Jim

and Jim will show Joe the volunteer list.

Jim plans to have a group to widen trails at Guggins Brook.

John pointed out that there are rules and regulations on using volunteers. You need their names and addresses. If they are operating under your control, you need to be sure you know what they are doing. If working with minors, you and other adult volunteers need CORIing.

We don't have a CORI process but the Town does.

#### Parcel reports

- Pacy: No map yet, but Pacy has been gps'd.
- Robbins Mill: We also need a Robbins Mill map developed, printed, and into the kiosk. Bruce and Bob Farra will develop a map for Robbins Mill (it too has been already gps'd) between now and next meeting. Bruce will send information to Bettina.
- Spring Hill, Camp Acton, Nashoba Brook need map updates.
- Nashoba Brook: What is the meaning of the yellow ribbons by the Pencil Factory? Bettina: They are there for an Eagle Scout project.
- Wetherbee: There are some blue ribbons. What do they mean? No definitive response. Todd is curious about invasives. John will walk Wetherbee again with Todd.
- Great Hill: Jim and a volunteer will be picking a patch of garlic mustard in the little cistern area.

#### June agenda

- Chair duties
- Maps; need someone to take the lead on this
- Quartermaster discussion—a place for putting stuff (Bruce)
- Chain saw policies and procedures; how Stewards can summon LSC sawyers and communicate properly
- Eagle Scout projects; does anyone have a project for Bettina? Jim gave her some. John suggested a Great Hill project (the Piper Road south entrance needs boardwalks or a bog bridge).
- If we call a subcommittee meeting for maps, Jim will attend.

#### Meeting evaluation

It's been a lot of fun. Jim went out with a bang.

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 P.M. John volunteered for next week's snack.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, July 21, at 7 P.M., in Room 121 or 126.