

**Land Stewardship Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**March 16, 2011**  
**Acton Town Hall**

Regular (voting) members present: Bettina Abe, Philip Keyes, Peggy Liversidge, Ann Shubert (minute-taker), Jim Snyder-Grant (chair), Laurie Ullmann

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

Nonmembers present: Linda McElroy (former LSCom chair and current Trail Through Time [TTT] organizer), Tom Tidman (Director of Natural Resources and LSCom's Town staff liaison)

Meeting minutes: The February minutes were accepted and approved.

Committee roles: Jim wants/needs to give away more pieces of his job so he can spend more time on other interests. It was suggested that maybe there is a need to say no when jobs come along that put too much of a burden on the Committee, or members of it.

Linda McElroy's report on Robbins Mill Land and TTT: The chamber restoration, Phase I of the TTT, has been completed. The Wheeler Farm foundation, Phase II, has been restored, much landscaping has been done—trees have been cut down, 900 bulbs have been planted, picnic tables have been installed, and handicapped accessible trails mostly finished. Linda is waiting to see if Town Meeting will approve grant money for a Phase III project to restore the grist mill portion of the site. The Phase III grant will allow removal of the shack and cement abutments. The raceway (canal that goes from the pond to the shack), the sluiceways, and three foundations, including the original mill, will be restored. An observation deck will be built over the mill foundation walls. Tom T. said that the Robbins Mill Pond dam needs either repairing or dismantling, as the State has mandated that all below-standard dams be repaired. If the dam is dismantled, the flow of water in the mill site may not be sufficient to run an overshot wheel there, similar to the original, which is being contemplated for a later phase of the project.

The land that the Robbins Development Co. is deeding to the Town will be up for a vote at Town Meeting. Assuming approval, a new LSCom trail can be laid out there that will connect with either the Spring Hill or the Nashoba Brook yellow trails. Philip and Bob will help in flagging a possible trail for this 'Indian Loop,' which will go from the Carlisle Road parking area into the area of Indian artifact density. Jim will speak with Bill Klauer regarding the Acton Boy Scout Land that may be desirable to cross. Linda hopes that these trails can be flagged and cut this summer.

Linda believes there are more Indian relics in the vicinity of the stone piles (rings) on the Nashoba Brook trail. She hopes this summer to cut that short trail, enhance the site, and install an information panel there.

Jim has left phone calls for Bill Klauer re formal or informal passage through presently owned Acton Boy Scout land. Tom noted that perhaps someone should talk to Bill Klauer about transferring this land to Acton conservation land with special allowances for the Boy Scouts.

Laurie is interested in getting the Bay Circuit trail extended and it might possibly cross the Acton Boy Scout land if permitted.

Guggins and Water District land trail: Jim will speak with Matt Mostoller of the Acton Water District

regarding the trail between Guggins and the Water District building off Rt. 111. Since the trail in question is entirely on Water District land, LSCom will not be maintaining or blazing it, but we would not object to the Water District maintaining it. We could add an arrow to keep people on our trail system and off this Water District trail, if needed.

Great Hill blazing: To the four options noted in the February minutes, Peggy added a fifth: using the standard blue rectangles on all trails inside the loop trail but distinguishing them by numbers at trail junctions (twice for each trail: at the junction with the loop trail and at the junction with other trails on the hill). She and Bettina hope to agree on an option to present to the committee next month.

Town Forest steward: Theresa Portante is a potential steward for the Town Forest. Jim will meet with her and walk through the land with her.

Police intervention: It would be helpful to invite the police to a meeting to discuss their role and ours in protecting the conservation lands from vandalism.

Volunteer Fair, April 26, 7:30 PM: This is a fair at which members of the different town committees give a two-minute talk regarding the function of the committee and whether or not there are vacancies. Jim will give the talk for the LSCom.

Senior Service Day, April 29: Bettina and Jim have jobs for some seniors. Bettina will need a group to do mulching and other chores at the Arboretum. Jim would like help in removing garlic mustard. There might be a need for help at Pratt's Brook.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 20 at 4 P.M.

Documents that serve as background for these discussions can be found at <https://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-4174>

These documents are titled:

- 000 – LSCom Agenda 2011 03 16
- 01 – LSCom draft minutes 2011 02 16
- 04 – emails about Guggins access from Acton Water District
- 05 – emails re: Great Hill Rt. 111 access
- 06 – emails re guidebook updates
- 07 – Wills Hole Steward
- 10 – Town Board Fair: Tuesday April 26
- 11 – ABRHS Senior Service Day: April 29 (emails)
- 13 – Link to LSC parcel reports