

Land Stewardship Committee Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2011, 4:00 PM
Acton Town Hall

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

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

Nonmembers present: Tom Tidman (Director of Natural Resources and LSCom's Town staff liaison)

Meeting minutes: The April minutes were accepted and approved.

Notice board: Philip brought in a sample notice board. It is about 11"x17" and is made of plywood that is sealed. It could be good for holding the "You Are Here" maps at Spring Hill. Peggy and Bettina will put it up at Great Hill in order to test it for future use.

Guidebooks: We are running low on guidebooks. EMS sells a lot of them and needs more. Nan will give them some. Tom A. said that postcard-sized mailed or emailed information might replace the guidebook.

Summer events: Jim suggested that there be a party that would include volunteers. It was decided to hold a potluck dinner party on Saturday, June 25, at 6 pm. The Committee voted to cancel the August meeting.

Scout land: Jim has had some conversations with Bill Klauer regarding the Scout land that is enveloped by conservation land.

Elm trees: Bruce Carley has planted some elm trees around the Town. Two of his trees are in the Grassy Pond meadow. The larger of the two is a Liberty elm, a variety with an uncertain level of Dutch elm disease tolerance. The trunk of that tree is damaged. He expressed thanks for the removal of a fallen limb from that tree. The other elm is a Valley Forge. It has proven resistance to Dutch elm disease and reliable structural soundness when pruned correctly. Bruce welcomes correspondence from the Committee regarding the trees. His website is www.elmpost.org/proves.htm. Philip suggested we email Bruce and thank him for his work with the elm trees.

Camp Acton: The gate closest to Pope Road is currently closed but not locked. That is the recommendation of the Camp Acton steward, Bruce Rachmann, for this gate. Bob thought the gate should be locked. Possibly campers could portage their belongings in by using a cart. It would be good to enlarge the parking area close to Pope Road. However, this is difficult to do because of the wetlands, according to Tom Tidman. Tom will mull over possible solutions. Bruce said that it would be good if the logs in the amphitheater were removed. Bruce will get the Scouts to stencil all the picnic tables with the number of the camp site where they belong. The other items for consideration at Camp Acton are firewood holders.

Kiosks/posters: Bob, Laurie, and Jim fixed the kiosk at Davis Road. Laurie will replace the posters after he has repainted the surface of the kiosk. Committee members can go to the LSCom link to print out posters to replace faded ones. Once printed the posters can be laminated at the Recreation Dept.

Some illegal posters advertising dog grooming have been put up on the kiosk boards. When seen, such posters should be taken down. Jim called the people doing this and told them the rules and fees for such encroachment.

Parcel news: The steward of the Pacy land needs a map. Tom will send Bob a black-and-white version of the map so that Bob can add color and other improvements.

Joan mentioned that in autumn 2009 at Wetherbee, she reported that the sign (on Wetherbee St.) had been damaged and recommended that it be repaired. At the time, others felt it would be better to replace the entire sign in 2010 rather than repair the damage. However, that did not happen. At this meeting, Bob said it may only need one new board, and that he will investigate.

Parcel visits: Jim has not seen some of the stewards in a while. In the fall he wants to meet with individual stewards and walk their property and check the boundaries. It might be good to invite some selectmen to go on these walks.

Jenks bench: Tom A. found a good spot for a bench at Jenks. It is on a rocky knoll on the blue trail. The majority of the Committee members present were in favor of a bench made of recycled material that could be purchased at Conversion Products in Portland, Maine. Also, most favored that a plaque be placed on the front side of the bench, if desired. Joan will write a bench policy. She suggested that the bench price be stated and that a voluntary donation be added to that price. Tom A. will take the recommendation for a bench at Jenks to the Conservation Commission in order to get their approval. Jim will take the people interested in donating a bench to the suggested site for it. The Committee did have a formal vote for approving that one memorial bench be allowed at Jenks and that the bench be of recycled composite material at no cost to the Town. All but one were in favor.

Rules: Bob suggested that rule enforcement procedures be put on the agenda for a future meeting. Possibly a police officer could be present.

Japanese knotweed: Bettina said that there is knotweed that needs knocking down at the Canoe Launch area.

Mosquito fish: Mosquito fish are not native to this area and should not be put in ponds and streams as they might eat other amphibians and cause other damage.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 15 at 4 pm.

Document that serve as background for these discussions can be found at <http://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-4307>. These documents are titled:

- 00 - Agenda as posted
- 01 - LSCom draft minutes 2011 04 27
- 02 - Excerpts from letter on Elms
- 031 – Emails re: Camp Acton
- 032 - Dec 15 2010 minutes reference camp acton issues
- 033 - Feb 16, 2011 minutes reference camp acton issues
- 041 - Link to kiosk and poster information

042 - Emails re: kiosks

061 - See last month's minutes for previous bench discussion

062 - Emails re: benches at Jenks

08 - Link to Parcel updates