

Land Stewardship Committee Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2009, 4:00 PM
Acton Town Hall

Present: Joan Cirillo, Bob Guba, Philip Keyes, Peggy Liversidge (minute-taker), Nan Towle Millett, Rich Rhode, Jim Snyder-Grant (chair), Tom Tidman

Minutes: The January minutes were not voted on because a quorum was not present.

Chain saw training session: Bob, Jim, and Laurie attended a recent training session with Dean Charter, so the temporary moratorium on our chain saw use has been lifted. Philip has already attended a similar session, so we now have four trained chain saw users. Dave also plans to attend a training session at some point.

Great Hill money: Jim reported that a recently deceased Acton resident, David Tinker, had specified that memorial donations could be made to a fund to be used at Great Hill, and \$275 is now in that fund for our use. One suggestion was made: that we install a sturdy, anchored bench or chair, either near Wass Rock or near the summit.

Newspaper article suggestions: Paul Wasserboehr has indicated that he is hoping to begin writing *Beacon* articles again and has asked for ideas. It was suggested that he might try to find out something about David Tinker (see Great Hill money item above) and/or other town residents who have made similar contributions based on their appreciation of open, undeveloped land for public use. Jim also mentioned that Linda has some ideas related to the Trail Through Time.

LSCOM chair ideas: Noting that no one has expressed an interest in taking over as chair in June, Jim said that he is now considering "Plan B": staying on in a general leadership role but with a clearer distribution of some responsibilities to others. One of his biggest concerns has been about upkeep of the parcel-by-parcel major-projects list, which he has gotten behind on, and this led to a discussion of just how much list management is really needed. Jim's sense has been that it is useful to have such a list, especially for handling responses to requests for Eagle Scout projects and group volunteer opportunities. Bob suggested that each steward should simply have a sense of what is needed on his or her parcel and be ready to offer suggestions, if appropriate, when specific Scout or volunteer opportunities arise. Philip stated that he thinks it would be helpful to keep a consolidated list for the whole committee but feels that it could be considerably more streamlined than Jim's database setup, and he volunteered to keep such a list. Jim was satisfied with this idea but suggested that projects potentially suitable for Scouts or volunteer groups might be flagged. Nan noted that spring, with the approach of good weather and the end of the fiscal year, would be a good time to do a quick check-in to review this list each year.

Responsibility for a number of other task categories was also briefly discussed. Including the projects list upkeep noted above, the following categories and people were noted:

Projects list upkeep: Philip

Town task list (i.e., things to keep in touch with Tom about): This includes items such as parking lot maintenance, woodpile burning, meadow mowing, and sign-making. Nan volunteered to do this but would like to get input from stewards at the next meeting.

Geocaches/letterboxes: Bettina

Website: Rich

Minutes (including posting to Town website): Peggy and Ann

Tools: Bob

Biodiversity/invasives: Jim

Publicity/communications/education: Philip (main person for getting the word out about occasional lectures); Paul (for newspaper articles)

Lamination of kiosk material: Joan requested that Andrea do the laminating of kiosk notices rather than requiring that each steward become familiar with how to do this (using the machine in the Dept. of Health office).

Acton Town Board Volunteer Fair: Jim attended this event on February 11 and gave a very short description of the LSCoM (each committee/board representative was allotted two minutes).

Next meeting: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 18, at 4:00 PM.