

Land Stewardship Committee Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2009
Acton Town Hall

Present: Jim Snyder-Grant, Peggy Liversidge, Nan Towle Millett, Bettina Abe, Bob Guba, Phil Keyes, Laurie Ullmann, Joan Cirillo, Rich Rhode, Ann Shubert (minute taker)

Meeting Minutes: The December and January minutes were approved. The February minutes were not voted on at this time.

We started by reviewing the lists and list-owners the group agreed to at the last meeting.

Project Ideas: Phil Keyes

Town List: Nan Towle Millett

Website: Rich Rhodes

Education/Publicity: Phil Keyes, Paul Wasserboehr

Geocaches/letterboxes: Bettina Abe

Minutes (including posting to Town website): Peggy Liversidge, Ann Shubert

Tools: Bob Guba

Invasives: Jim Snyder-Grant

And some new or unstaffed lists were discussed:

Eagle Projects: Bettina Abe

Committee structure and staffing: Joan Cirillo

Blazing: Bettina Abe, Peggy Liversidge

Biodiversity Protection: Unstaffed for now

Publicity and Newspaper Articles: Phil will email Paul regarding the writing of articles for the 'Beacon'.

Potential Eagle Projects and Projects in General: About half of the kiosks are rotting out at the base. Bob is wondering whether or not to have all the kiosks made in the same style. The Heath Hen Meadow sign is in bad shape. Bob said that some signs need redoing and some are rotting and need replacing. Each steward should check their signs and tell Bettina what needs replacing/redoing. Phil suggested that we go to the Voss signs - aluminum - which are nailed into the tree. These signs are not as aesthetically pleasing as the painted blazes and a nail does have to be put into the tree. Bob suggested that we continue with the painted blazes as long as we have people willing to maintain them.

Biodiversity and Meadow Planning: There was discussion as to when meadows should be cut down. Nan has information about this from the Audubon society and will make it available. It was noted that the front-end loader used by the Town at GP and Heath Hen meadows tore up the land. Hopefully, meadow jobs could be accomplished without the use of such heavy equipment. Jim noted that when we put wood piles in the woods, they will decay on their own, providing habitat for animals, and not causing any of the damage that the big machines cause. He recommended we put wood piles in the woods whenever possible in preference to burning them.

Projects for Senior Service Day, May 1: Nagog - discussion of way to keep horses on their side of the trail near the horse farm, pile clean-up at Grassy Pond, Nagog access trail opposite GP parking lot needs wood chips, Wheeler Lane invasives project (garlic mustard) - these are some of the projects the seniors might do. Forms should be filled out for Senior Service Day.

Advanced Micro Devices (AMD) Company Project: AMD community relations group contacted the LSCom regarding possible work for AMD employees. The purpose of the work is to develop a sense of teamwork among the employees. There could be a project for them if they have engineers who could design and then carry through. There is no 'shovel ready' project for them.

Meeting Times: There is the need for a quorum at times so the best time for meetings for most people was briefly discussed. The people present at the meeting prefer Wednesday afternoons at 4:00. It was suggested that we have different kinds of membership in order that a quorum could be reached with fewer members. This is also the notion discussed in the draft charter (see below) where there would be full members and associate members. In this way, as with other committees, a quorum could be achieved for decisions with half+1 of the full members.

Land Stewardship Charter: Jim will send this charter via email so that committee members can check it at home for possible changes.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30. The next meeting will be held at 4 PM on Wednesday, April 15.