

Land Stewardship Committee Meeting Minutes  
April 16, 2008  
Acton Town Hall

Present: Jim Snyder-Grant (chair), Bob Guba, Bettina Abe, Peggy Liversidge, Rich Rhodes, Joan Cirillo, Ann Shubert (minute taker)

Meeting Minutes: The March minutes were approved.

To Do Management: Bettina helped Jim organize some of his LSC to-do items. The next step is for Jim to delegate or drop some of them.

Blazing: Bettina will chisel arrows and she will paint them. Laurie and Bob put up additional markers at Spring Hill.

New Stewards: Linda was attending the meeting and she said that originally the committee looked for an expertise needed on the committee. She also said that a good way to evaluate a prospective candidate is to walk with them on the parcel where the steward is needed. Jim suggested that a prospective steward be given a trial period.

New Clothing for Stewards: Tom has some money available to provide for new hats or other clothing for stewards. Bettina will talk to Tom about hats.

Volunteers: The Beth Elohim congregation provided workers last fall. They want to have a spring work day. Linda will need lots of workers at Wheeler Lane for the Trails Through Time project. She will need people for brushing out, pulling out weeds, cutting out saplings, and spreading stone dust after the ground has been leveled. The Beth Elohim people could be very helpful at Wheeler Lane. Jim also has the Beth Elohim folks thinking about wood-chipping at Guggins brook, especially around the first small boardwalk over the old route of Inches Brook near the Rte 111 entrance.

Projects: The Committee gave their approval for the landscaping of Wheeler Lane for the Trails Through Time project. Linda and Jim and Doug Halley will hold an informal meeting with the neighbors who abut the Wheeler Lane area. The USGS gaging station which is at this location may have an antenna added nearby which will impact the planned work.

Nagog Hill Erosion: Jim and Phil walked northward on the red corridor trail leading from Grassy Pond, continuing northward onto the Yellow Trail up to the more southern of the two blue trails, in order to assess the effects of water flow and accumulating water and the viability of using the "rolling grade dip" method of diverting water from the trails. They felt that the red corridor trail was worn down to a sufficiently hard surface so that further erosion would not be a concern there. Joan and Bob concurred with that assessment. There was less consensus regarding the condition of the yellow trail north of the red corridor, from that junction to, and just beyond, the right turn-off running parallel to Nagog Pond's shoreline, and what, if anything, should be done about water flowing down, pooling in or cutting across that north/south-running segment of the yellow trail. Joan believes that something has changed to the west of that junction which causes substantially more water to enter, run down and cut across portions of that trail segment. Bob disagreed, and thought a rolling grade dip would be

unnecessary. A future work project with a volunteer crew could be to experiment with the first of these possible rolling dips to see if it improves conditions.

Scouts: On April 26 the cub scouts and their parents want to do something for clean-up day in North Acton. They can help at Wheeler Lane.

On May 1 Jim and Tom are meeting with the girl scouts at Jenks re the project of closing off the trail to the vernal pool.

There are two scouts in Grade 5 who need to do six hours each of work. Linda may be able to use them.

Map Changes: The Groener land should be added to the Nagog map. Also a correction should be made to the Nagog map where Quail Ridge gave us an area in exchange for one of ours and to show that the conservation land does not extend all the way to the pond.

Parcel News and Updates: There is a large tepee near the Arbo meadow that needs to be removed.

Fall Camping: It was suggested that the LSCommittee give the organizing of fall camping to the Recreation Dept. We will help them in the endeavor on the days of the event if they are willing to do the organizing ahead of time.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45. The next meeting will be held at 4:00 pm on Wednesday, May 21.

