

Land Stewardship Committee Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2008

Acton Town Hall

Present: Jim Snyder-Grant (chair), Tom Tidman, Nan Towle Millett, Bob Guba, Bettina Abe, Dave Cochrane, Rich Rhodes, Joan Cirillo, Ann Shubert (minute taker)

Meeting Minutes: The December minutes were approved.

Trail Through Time: This will be a walkable trail that takes one through historic spots in the conservation areas. It will start in Carlisle at the Robbins Mill area and it will touch on historic spots on Nashoba Brook with spurs going to Spring Hill and so forth. Wheeler Lane with historic spots along Nashoba Brook is the next area to be developed. This will be a possible CPA project. Some volunteers will be needed, possibly to remove invasive species, and other trees and plants.

Composting Toilet at Camp Acton: It will cost \$20,000-\$40,000 to install a single seat handicapped accessible solar powered toilet for the parking area at Camp Acton. The toilet would require once a year maintenance. Tom said there are two possible sources of money to fund the toilet. EMS has offered to run a fund raiser or CPA funds might be available. There is also fine money that goes toward conservation.

Guide Book Sales: EMS is a good place to sell guidebooks as is Butterbrook Farm. Bettina sold some guidebooks at the library.

Grasslands Management Consultant: Jim will try to get some free information as to how to manage grasslands. Nan said that Audubon did some studies on grasslands in Boxborough. She has maps and suggestions on the work done in Boxborough. CPA might be a source of funds if invasives were removed and were replaced with native plants.

Earth Day, May 3: Volunteers are needed to staff the LSCom booth on Earth Day which will be held at St Matthews Church. Bettina, Nan, Dave, and Ann could be available. Tom will blow up some LSCom related photos to have on display.

LSCom Spring Event: Ron McAdow has excellent pictures of animals passing through the wildlife corridors that go under Route 2. The corridors are located between the Sudbury River and Arena Farms. Dave will contact Ron and see if he would give a talk on the above.

Open Space Recreation Plan/Master Plan: The State mandates that the Open Space and Recreation Plan be updated every five years. This is necessary to obtain State funds. On the plan is a list of prioritized parcels which are then scored as to importance. If anyone is familiar with any of these parcels, Jim would like to have them get together with him and Tom. The Master Plan, also called the

Comprehensive Community Plan, was last updated in 1987. The Selectmen have set aside funds for a major rewrite starting with a phase of gathering information from residents. Jim is helping to advise the firm that has been hired on how to reach residents. Forums, questionnaires, and other ways to participate will be rolled out this spring.

Web Site: Bob, Jim, and Rich have done some updates. Jim is working on getting the old site fixed so one can get to the new site. Rich updated some of the maps. The new logo needs to be put on the kiosk information.

Stow/Acton Walk, January 27: Jim will lead a walk from Stow through the easement to the Whitcomb parcel (and on to Heath Hen Meadow if it is cold enough) starting at noon. You can contact him for details.

Quail Ridge Easement Update: At the January 22 meeting of the Planning Board, it appears as if the Board will require that Quail Ridge work with the Committee on the trail easement that will be permanent whether houses are built on the land or not. Jim and others will determine the best place for the trail once the snow level is down.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15. The next meeting will be held at 4:00 on Wednesday, February 20.

