

Land Stewardship Committee Meeting Minutes

October 21, 2009

Acton Town Hall

Present: Bettina Abe, Bob Guba, Philip Keyes, Peggy Liversidge, Nan Towle Millett, Rich Rhode, Ann Shubert (minute-taker), Jm Snyder-Grant (chair), Tom Tidman
Guest: Linda McElroy

September minutes: The September minutes were approved.

Field mowing: Wick McConnon mowed the field behind Hy-Bid Farm. In the future he will be asked to mow only half of the field. It is important to mow to the outer edge of the field. Bob is clearing along the edge of the Heath Hen Meadow field. Jm will help him in this task. Tom selected half of the field at Jenks to be mowed. The inner meadow at the Nagog Hill needs to be done. Bob will ask Jimmy Young if he still has his brushhog and, if so, would he be willing to mow the inner meadow if the Town supplied him with the gas to do the job. Jm asked Tom to find out if the Giant Vac mower is working and, if so, Jm will mow the inner meadow. Bob also suggested that we give the Town maps that would show what needs to be done. Jm will work on the maps with Tom.

Board of Selectmen meeting: Jm will show some slides re LSCom activities at a November meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

Trail Through Time: Linda McElroy came to the meeting to provide an update on the Trail Through Time project. Bob has cleared the trees and low brush in an area overlooking the sluiceways at the Wheeler Farm site. Parishioners from Temple Beth Elohim have also contributed in this endeavor. They have been there three times.

Nan and Linda will make a wildflower meadow in this area. Allen Warner's eight-graders helped in clearing the area further. Volunteers will put down heavy mulch in November. Seven hundred mixed bulbs will be planted there. Nan will do the planting. Hart Millett will get the website up and running. Donna Woelki, a volunteer from Stow, is doing further historical research following up on leads discovered by Kimberley Connors.

Two Eagle Scouts and one Community Service Youth completed more than half the planned handicapped-accessible pathways at the site this summer.

Linda said she has a nice collection of tools, including a grading tool, as the result of the TTT grant. She would lend these tools for LSCom projects if needed.

The first phase of the TTT project will be restoration of sites along the Nashoba Brook yellow trail. A second loop is being planned and will be routed through the land coming to the Town from the Robbins Development Co. This area has the greatest density of Native American sites in the Acton Conservation Lands. Tim Fohl, from Carlisle, will come to the TTT meeting on Friday, October 23, to discuss how this new loop will connect to the Carlisle Conservation Land. Linda also said there are plans to cut a trail around the stone rings on the far side of the brook on the Nashoba Brook Trail. Doug Harris, a Narragansett Indian, will provide the Indian information. Philip has agreed to plan this short side trail.

Linda said there are extensive ideas for the mill side of the site, many contributed by Tom.

Philip said there are stone piles on the trail going behind NARA to Westford.

Nagog-Groener land: The Acton Conservation Trust helped the Town to purchase the Groener land. On October 17, seven people hiked into the land from the Nagog Hill parking lot on a walk sponsored by the ACT. It is a nice piece of land but boots are needed as there are swampy areas, especially where Nagog goes into the Groener land. The land has some nice hills and a weasel den. Jm does not recommend it for trails. It is a place for good off-trail experience—to wander and discover stone piles, for instance. It would be nice in the winter on snowshoes. Philip suggested that we update the Nagog map to include this land.

Parcel news: *Guggins:* Jm now has expertise at thwarting the beavers. At Guggins a six-sided fence box was put

around the end of a pipe, preventing the beavers from clogging the flow through the pipe.

Heath Hen Meadow: Bob reported that this area has a beaver problem. Dam construction has begun under the bridge.

Nagog Hill: Bob talked about the excellent new boardwalk that was built and installed by Eagle Scouts.

Grade 8 Green Work Day: There was a debriefing of the Grade 8 Green Work Day. Bob spoke of the need to decide before the next junior high community service day which projects need the use of backpacks and which need only wheelbarrows.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35.