

Land Stewardship Committee Meeting Minutes  
August 2, 4:00 P.M.  
Acton Town Hall

Present: Jim Snyder-Grant (chair), Bob Guba, Gigi Hopkins, Philip Keyes, Peggy Liversidge, Ann Shubert (minute taker), Tom Tidman

Parcel Needs and News:

Canoe Launch: Bettina Abe and Gigi have been taking care of the canoe launch area. People at Moscardiello's Equipment Inc. have been testing some of their equipment at the canoe launch site. Bob will tell them what we would like to have done there and see if they would be interested in doing it. Gigi has been looking at the trees at this site to determine whether or not they are desirable.

Spring Hill: A walker said there were a lot of trees down at the Spring Hill area. Philip has cleared the trees away from the trail.

Jenks: Bob has been keeping up with the mowing at Jenks. Jim wants to do a little more clearing at this site.

Guggins: Jim has been widening the trail at Guggins with his lawn mower.

Nashoba: Laurie wants to do some brushing out at Nashoba.

Great Hill: Bettina Abe will walk the Great Hill area in Paul's absence.

Grassy Pond Boardwalk: \$820 of the 2007 budget has been spent to date. It costs \$12/ft with Bob's annular ring technique. Bob would like to get authorization for \$315 more to do another 30 feet. That would leave just 100 feet to go. The annular ring is a very strong plastic that weighs only 14 lbs/section and can be assembled off site which makes the job much easier. It was suggested that the pictures he has taken of the boardwalk construction should be on the website.

Website Photos: Gigi and others would like to see a photo page on the website. Possibly there could be a double or more row of pictures that one would scroll down. There could be photos of each conservation area, seasonal photos, photos showing construction projects, and so forth. There could be captions under the photos but this is not necessary.

Dog Issue: Gigi attended the Selectman's meeting on Monday night where the dog problem was discussed. The issue is a contentious one. Philip thinks there needs to be more signs urging people to keep their dogs under control with the threat of a leash law if people do not comply. Gigi mentioned that more signs relating to dog behavior are needed at NARA as people are allowing their dogs to swim and defecate on the beach. Jim said he would draft a note to the Board of Selectmen stating that the LSCom has

discussed the dog issue and then stating the feelings of the Committee. The draft letter will be ready by the time of the LSCom meeting on Sept. 13.

Eagle Scout Project: Mark Hatfield will do a trail building project at the Robbins Mill Land. Tom wants there to be agreement on what trail surface should be used. The trail from the parking lot to the observation deck should be handicapped accessible. Philip described the use of geoweb. This is a system whereby a thin black filament is placed 4"-5" under the surface. Honey combed webbing is then placed 1/2" under the surface. This system works well in muddy situations. Philip stated that grant money is available for such a project with a matching 20% labor donation. Philip will write up the grant if someone, perhaps the scout, will do the legwork of measuring and figuring out what is needed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00. The next meeting will be at 4:00 on September 13.