

Land Stewardship Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
May 31, 2005, 7:30 P.M.  
Acton Town Hall

Present: Charlie Carlson, Dave Cochrane, Bob Guba, Gigi Hopkins, Peggy Liversidge, Linda McElroy, Nan Millett, Ann Shubert (minute taker), Jim Snyder-Grant (chair), Laurie Ulmann

Meeting minutes: The May 4 minutes were approved with no changes.

July or August Meetings: It was decided that no formal meetings would be held in July or August. Bob Guba brought up the problem of securing money, if needed, for a summer project. Jim said that if it is a planned project, the person needing funds should go to Jim and he and Tom would approve or disapprove. In lieu of meeting in July and August, people should check their lands once each month and write a report if there is anything of note to report.

August Picnic: Nan Millett has offered her house for a picnic. It will be the first Wednesday in August and spouses or significant others are invited.

Gigi, Signage: Gigi has repainted some of the signs that are in bad condition. Stewards should check their signs, especially the top of the board as that is where rot often starts, and report to Gigi if a sign needs painting. Linda said that the Parker St. sign at Pratt's Brook needs repainting.

Heath Hen Platform: Linda met with Tom re a possible Heath Hen platform. Tom agreed that it would be good to have a platform somewhere in town overlooking a wetland. Tom suggested a possible platform on some land coming up on Robbins Mills land. Dave thinks a platform could be built at Heath Hen. Jim said there are good wetlands up from the pond. Other places that may open up as a place for an observation platform are the Morrison Farm Property, or if Heath Hen joins with the Sergeant land, there might be a good spot for an observation deck.

Stonepile Signage: Linda suggested using a sign with an arrow and icon with three circles for the Spring Hill stonepile grid. Possibly Tom could get the signs routed out. Linda will be in charge of seeing that the signs are done. Tom or Gigi are possibilities for doing the signs.

Speaker: Lynda Simkins, head of the Natick Community Organic Farm, is going to speak on October 25. Another possibility for a speaker is to secure someone to discuss the topic of forest management practices. The Morrison Farm Property might be a good place to start with forest management. Linda will follow up on this.

Invasives: Maura Herlihy has been identifying garlic mustard at the Town Forest and at the Arboretum, and she has been removing it. Jim entered Camp Acton from Pope Road and noticed lots of invasives, including garlic mustard.

Updates: Tom Tidman, Cathy Hatfield, Jim and Bob met at the Arboretum. Occasionally tasks come up in the formal part of the Arboretum. Tom and Cathy will secure money for the tasks if money is needed.

Jim will bring in a map showing where trails may go on the Robbins-Mill land.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 P.M.