

LAND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

October 5, 2005, 4:00 P.M.

Acton Town Hall

Present: Gigi Hopkins, Peggy Liversidge, Nan Millett, Linda McElroy, Maura Herlihy, Bob Guba, Jim Snyder-Grant (chair), Paul Wasserbohr, Rich Rhodes, Phil Keyes, Joan Cirullo, Ann Shubert (minute taker)

Meeting Minutes: The September minutes were approved with no changes.

Parcel Needs: Paul offered to do trail brushing if anyone needs it on their parcel. Philip said that the main loop trail at Spring Hill could be brushed.

Budget Use: Bob Guba spent \$640 on the Grassy Pond boardwalk project. 110' have been completed and he has money to do another 30'. Possibly he would like another \$385 to do an additional 30'. \$255 was spent on 40' of boardwalk at Bulette.

Paul Wasserbohr would like a new grass whip and sickle. Linda has antique ones she can lend.

Gigi needed a pitchfork. On a hunch she checked Betty Morrison's barn. Gigi found a pitchfork and other tools. She will inventory these tools.

Chamber Update: Tom and Linda will give a presentation to CPC on Thursday. A new archaeologist must be found, as the original person is no longer available. The mason is still available. Tom said Doug Halley has some ideas on the archaeologist.

Conservation Property: Joan said there was no marker when one left Nagog Cons. Area and entered Brewster Conant's property. Bob Guba said that it is up to the private property owner to post a sign. Phil suggested there could be a sign stating that one is leaving conservation property.

Informal Trails: There was a discussion regarding informal trails made by independent citizens. These trails could be for house access, cross access/spaghetti, or mowing. A trail cut at Bulette is confusing. Trails should not be cut on conservation lands. The committee should intervene when there is confusion, it is too large and formal and damaging, erosion risk.

There should be a confirmation blaze or arrow after an intersection.

A sign is needed on the main loop at Spring Hill where the Jay Lane trail peels off.

MFRC Update: Linda reported on last Thursday's meeting of the MFRC committee. The meeting was well attended. Walter Foster (selectman) reiterated that everyone who wants to participate should do so. He stated that the data-gathering phase of the committee was completed with the exception of Rita McConnon's talk for the horse constituency. There will be an educative forum open to all where a synopsis of all ideas on the table will be presented. Linda asked Walter Foster if it would be acceptable for

the Land Stewardship Committee to present its' idea of a community farm to the public in addition to advertising Lynda Simkins' presentation on October 26 at 7:00 pm in Rm. 204 at the Town Hall. Walter okayed this. Linda went on to say that parking spaces needed would be a limiting factor on what use could be made of the Morrison property. Articles will appear in the 'Globe' and in the 'Beacon'. Phil, as well as others on the committee, will email appropriate people.

Dogs: There was a lengthy discussion of the dog issue. Some aggressive dog behavior is a problem, especially at Great Hill and the Arboretum. It was decided that signs would not be needed. Phil suggested that people network among the dog owners at the conservation areas – a polite reminder to control ones dog, where appropriate. Joan suggested a blurb in the Action Unlimited. Nan would send notes to local vets. Sally Eldridge, a dog walker, will also be contacted.

Junior High Work Day: The day was very successful for the most part. Lots of good things were accomplished. Bob Guba said that next year there should be a service day coordinator.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.

The next meeting will be at 4:00 pm on November 2, 2005.