

**LAND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 3, 2004, 4:00 P.M.
ACTON TOWN HALL**

Present: Dave Cochrane, Bob Guba, Gigi Hopkins, Peggy Liversidge, Linda McElroy, Nan Millett, Jim Snyder-Grant (chair), Tom Tidman, Laurie Ullmann

* Steward updates: (1) Laurie and Bob have made some boardwalk repairs at the Arboretum and Grassy Pond. (2) Jim and Bob have installed the third beaver-control pipe (in the middle culvert) and lowered and cleaned out the pipe at the culvert furthest downstream. So far these seem to be working well. (3) Bob has mowed down the buckthorn and autumn olive saplings in the Wetherbee meadow, and Gigi plans to do further clearing out under the crabapple trees. (4) Bob mentioned that he has noticed a possible dumping site in a corner of Stoneymeade that needs to be checked on. (5) Bob also reported that Charlie Carlson has filled in the holes at the Pratt's Brook senior park.

* Assabet River canoe launch: Bob reported that he has done some mowing at the new canoe launch site (and may inadvertently have damaged some plantings installed by the developer who donated the land). The large unpaved parking area is located to the left of the Moscariello Equipment Co. on Rt. 62, and from it a wide path slopes down to the river. Bob will mow the path occasionally, and Linda agreed to check the site on a regular basis and report anything that needs to be done. It was agreed that a sign (standard brown with yellow lettering) should be made that will read "Acton Canoe Launch / Assabet River."

* Acton chamber project: As was indicated in Linda's recent e-mail (dated 10/30), we will not be receiving CPA money this year for the proposed chamber project. Even so, Linda said that she would like to move forward with some parts of the project as well as look for other funding sources. The architect who surveyed the chamber is now doing some historical research on the site from the NEARA archives, and Linda suggests that we do some clearing around the chamber in the spring or early summer. However, she also reported that the mason, who has completed his initial survey, has found that the chamber is dangerous in its present state and recommends either that the structure be torn down or that the wall be restored. Using information provided by the mason, Linda and Tom plan to speak to the appropriate Town personnel, arguing for temporary shoring up of the chamber as a preliminary to the restoration.

* Guidebook reprinting: Nan reported that there are only about 50 copies of the guidebook left and that she thinks we may run out by December. The new Arboretum trail needs to be mentioned in the text and added to the map, and it was decided to include a brief reference to one stone pile grid area in the Spring Hill entry and on that map (see item below). It was suggested that we might also include the new canoe launch (see item above), but it was decided that for now we will put that information on the website only. Linda and Peggy will coordinate with Cathy Hatfield and with Nan and Gigi about the Arboretum and Spring Hill text changes, and Jim will coordinate with Rich concerning map and website changes.

* Rock piles at Spring Hill: Recalling the walk last spring with Peter Waksman, Nan stated that she and Gigi would like to see one rock pile grid at Spring Hill cleared minimally to make the piles a bit more visible, and they suggest that now would be a good time to do this work; a short path from the blazed trail would also need to be cleared. They also propose that the site be mentioned briefly in the Spring Hill guidebook entry and marked on the map. Jim suggested that a provisional trail be tagged, and it was agreed that we would add a brief mention in the guidebook text and mark the site on the Spring Hill map.

* Morrison Farm: Gigi reported that selection of Morrison Farm Planning Committee members was on the most recent BoS agenda but she had no further information. Linda proposed that an LSCom subcommittee be formed to discuss what proposal we would like to make to the MFPC once it begins meeting. She suggested that she, Ann, Gigi, and Peggy be on the subcommittee, and Dave indicated he was also interested. It was agreed that the group would meet on Nov. 6.

* ConsCom and boundary encroachment letters: Jim will be attending tonight's ConsCom meeting, where he will stress the need to send out outstanding boundary encroachment letters as soon as possible and to move quickly on similar issues as they arise in the future. He has turned over all current information to Andy Magee (newly designated as the one to write and send these letters) and reported that one outstanding letter has been sent recently. Bob requested that we receive copies of all letters sent out.

* Quarry land swap committee: During a brief discussion of the land swap, Jim reported that he had received a call from Walter Foster inquiring whether he would be interested in serving on the committee to study the proposal. Jim declined, but it is an indication that the BOS is moving on the decision made at Town Meeting.

* Future directions: Jim mentioned that he has been thinking about future directions for the committee and will have some ideas for discussion at the next meeting.

* Next meeting: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 1.