

**LAND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 8, 2003, 4:00 P.M.
ACTON TOWN HALL**

Present: Dave Cochrane, Bob Guba, Gigi Hopkins, Phil Keyes, Peggy Liversidge, Nan Millett, Rich Rhode, Ann Shubert, Jim Snyder-Grant, Tom Tidman

- Guidebook: Lynn Horsky has indicated she will have the PDF version of the guidebook ready for review soon. Phil indicated that this would be a very large file and suggested that we ask Lynn to provide us with a hard copy rather than an electronic file. It was also suggested that a copy be put on file at Tom's office so that stewards can review it also; Peggy will notify people when it is available.

Tom will be writing up his introduction soon. The only remaining map that Lynn needs to receive, for the Arboretum, is almost ready.

- Guidebook fundraising: Nan has turned in \$1,600 (mostly \$100 donations) to the town secretary. She has a bit more money committed and will continue to try to raise as much as she can by the time the book goes to press; she is using mid-February as a deadline for receipt of donations.

- Sophomore community service project: Bob and Laurie have picked up the hardware for the next kiosk that the students will be building.

- Wetherbee trail: Bob has flagged the new section of trail at Wetherbee and walked it with Phil. After the snow has melted it will be walked again before cutting. A neighboring family, the Rices, may help with this.

- Unauthorized vehicle use at Wetherbee: Dave Lee, at Bob's request, installed a boulder barrier between the farm field and the small meadow, but a snowmobiler has already gone around it. Bob has identified the young man (John Durkin, a Wetherbee Street resident, who also has driven an ATV and a dirt bike on the land) and spoken with him. Despite promising not to do it again, he subsequently did so. Neither Bob nor Gigi has notified the police yet; Gigi says if he continues to do this, she will first call John Chalmers, who knows Durkin.

- Wills Hole educational kiosk: Having received the \$1,000 grant from the group at Tufts, Dave has turned over the information for the panel to Scott Hancock, who is now working on its design. Bob will be building the mounting structure.

- Possible footbridge at Robbins Mill Pond dam: In response to the note in last month's minutes about the possible need for a new bridge, Bob (who wasn't present at that meeting) stated that he still does not think we should do this. He said that no planks had been put across the dam for over a year and that a bridge would be quite expensive to build (perhaps \$3,000 - \$4,000) because it would have to be sturdy enough to withstand high, fast water. Tom said that he also does not think we should do this.

- Invasives plan: Jim said that he and Gigi are beginning to compile educational information and a list of websites about invasives. It was suggested that we might add a page to the website at some point.

- Vernal pools: Gigi reported that of the vernal pools presently shown on conservation land maps, four (two at Jenks and one each at Stoneymeade and Grassy Pond) remain to be certified; these will be done this year. She is also beginning to keep a map of the locations of vernal pools in town that are on private land. She noted that Westford has a map locating 85 pools, many on private land, that have already been certified.

- E-mail inquiries to committee: There was a brief discussion of our way of handling e-mail sent to the committee. The general sense was that any person on the committee can answer mail sent to the lsc@acton.town.ma.us address, but they should cc: the rest of the committee so that everyone knows that the question was answered. Often it is clear who should answer an inquiry, but if mail sits unanswered for a bit, or if it is unclear who should answer it, Jim will make sure it gets answered, by calling for volunteers or suggesting a respondent or by answering it himself.

- Request from Nan re contacting her by phone: Nan requested that people contact her by phone rather than relying on e-mail to get information to her, especially that which specifically concerns her.

- New website address: Rich has transferred our website to the town's website; the new URL is <http://www.town.acton.ma.us/LSCOM/index.htm>. There will be a pointer at the old URL for a while.
- Next meeting: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 5, at 4:00.