

Land Stewardship Committee Meeting Minutes  
February 7, 2007  
Acton Town Hall

Present: Nan Millett, Gigi Hopkins, Jim Snyder-Grant (chair), Bob Guba, Peggy Liversidge, Joan Cirillo, Ann Shubert (minute-taker)

Meeting Minutes: The January minutes were approved.

Doug Halley Update re River Street: The Lazaro Paving Company is contemplating selling some of their land on River Street. Only one third of the land is usable to them. There is a dam on Fort Pond Brook which flows through the land. The dam serves no purpose but could pose a danger to the people who live below it. Originally it was thought that the land would sell for \$750,000-\$1.2 mil. However, the owners are considering the worth to be \$2.2 mil. as houses could be built there. At that price, Halley does not consider it worth proceeding. The Town may get involved in a possible purchase in the future should the owners come down in price. The land could be a nice park area.

R&R Changes at Camp Acton: Bob thinks there should be some changes in the Rules and Regulations at Camp Acton. Picnic tables are at times being moved between sites. The tables are heavy and should not be moved unless the people moving them can return them to the proper site. Also, the upper gate may need a padlock as it has been left open. Bob will talk to Andrea and Tom re changes. Rich will post any changes on the website.

Wetherbee Field: Gigi said that the new MA Fish&Wildlife map has the entire Wetherbee agricultural field colored as Priority Habitat Rare Species. This came about as a result of Gigi identifying a Vesper sparrow on territory for two years running at Wetherbee field, and filing a State-Listed-as-Threatened Species Report with MA Fish&Wildlife.

Spring Talk: Linda may be able to find someone who could talk about stonewalls. Gigi said she knows of a good person who could talk about bluebirds. Another possibility is a talk about invasives.

Earth Day: St Matthews is partnering with the Acton Recreation Commission in organizing an Earth Day for April 28. The event will be held indoors at St Matthews. They would like a display by the Land Stewardship Committee.

Acton-Stow Update: Bob and Dave offered to widen the trail in the upper part of the Whitcomb land. They, along with Jim, will go out as soon as possible to do this work.

Morrison Farm Wire Fence: Gigi said the wire fence at the Morrison Farm needs to be removed and rolled up for future use.

Pros and Cons of Land free of trails: Gigi would like to ask Jim Cardoza of MA Fish&Wildlife how putting in trails affects wildlife. She would also like to check with MA Audubon. This information would give some balance to the argument for trails. The Pacy land seems particularly suited to being trail free.

Dog Policy Update: The selectmen asked the Recreation Commission to come up with a dog policy. It is possible that a good place for a dog park would be the small cleared area to the left of the Great Hill entrance. Only dogs on leashes would be allowed in the soccer field area.

Parcel Work: Land stewards reviewed Jim's sheets regarding projects and other concerns on their parcels.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45. The next meeting will be held at 4:00 P.M. on March 7.