

Land Stewardship Committee Meeting Minutes  
October 3, 2007  
Acton Town Hall

Present: Jim Snyder-Grant (chair), Nan Towle Millett, Tom Tidman, Bob Guba, Peggy Liversidge, Bettina Abe, Joan Cirillo, Ann Shubert (minute taker)

Meeting Minutes: The August and September minutes were approved.

Quail Ridge Country Club (QRCC): Joan and Jim wrote a letter to QRCC regarding the omission of the trail easement that had been included in the original QRCC plan.

Website: The new LSCom website is [Actontrails.org](http://Actontrails.org) or [www.Actontrails.org](http://www.Actontrails.org). Eventually, putting in the old address will automatically get one to the new site. Jim will update the website for the next four weeks as Rich is away.

Trails Through Time: Two issues with Trails Through Time are the trail maintenance issue and the trail route issue. Gigi will automatically brush out the trails. The cellar hole at the end of Wheeler Lane will be cleaned out. Sites on the trails will include the Stone Chamber, the Pencil Factory site, the Stone Pile site, and the Wheeler Farm site. Philip offered to lead a small expeditionary walk from Spring Hill to the Robbins Mill land in an effort to make a trail into Carlisle. There are different options on how to loop the trail through the Nashoba Brook and Spring Hill areas. It was noted that the stone walling used at the back of the Chamber is different from the local field rocks used at the Chamber entrance. It is possible that the back walling may have come from a rock outcropping on the Robbins Mill land. Also, there may have been a source for rocks behind the community gardens on Route 27.

Hybid Farm: The Hybid Farm people cleared the Town owned back meadow behind their farm. There is a small metal structure there, however. This structure contains where the horses may eat. There is concern about the Hybid Farm lease of the Town land. Riding lessons are not allowed on the land, permission is needed for structures to be put on the land, and only eight horses are allowed on the land at one time. Jim offered to put Rita McConnon in touch with someone at Town Hall to deal with the issues. Bob would like someone to oversee Hybid's activities.

Meeting Time Change: Beginning in January, 2008, LSCom will meet on the third Wednesday of each month. This time change will avoid conflicts with the holidays which usually occur at the beginning of the month. Andrea is in charge of reserving the room.

Member Insurance Coverage: Jim will ask Steve Anderson how committee members are covered in the event of injury when cutting/working on Conservation Lands. Also there is the issue of volunteer coverage. Joan will remind Jim of some of the issues. Bob thinks that pitchforks should not be used

at the chip piles as they are more hazardous than shovels.

Junior High Work Day: The junior high work day went very well. Bettina said there were 29 kids working at the Arboretum. One child did get poked in the eye. The group weeded the lilac area among other chores. Joan had 21 kids and 2 parents at Nagog Hill. She and John split the wood chipping job at Nagog. More tools were needed. At Pratt's Brook the cordoroy trail was chipped. Hauling away old boards from the boardwalk and chipping were done at Grassy Pond. Bob coordinated the efforts of all. A coordinator is vital. It is also important that everyone have Allan Warner's cell phone number on the work day.

Camp Acton Camping Weekend: It was a beautiful time for camping at Camp Acton on September 22. There were 26 campers in all which was a good number. Although the maximum was set at 40 campers, it appears that 30 should be the maximum allowed. More charcoal is needed for the next such event. Jim and Philip watched as EMS worked to clear up all the fire rings so that there was only one per camp site. EMS paid for the portable toilet. They would like to have a composting toilet at Camp Acton and they would be willing to spear-head a campaign to raise funds for it in addition to contributing for the cost. Tom is making efforts in this direction. When the campers arrived the rules were read to them and fire safety discussed. It would be good to notify both the Police Dept and the Fire Dept when such events are to be held there in the future. Also, a real committee should be organized to run the event and Tom should be kept informed. If rain and wind were forecast the event should be cancelled. The entertainers – storyteller and guitar/singing – went well although there could have been more songs familiar to the children. Laurie's pancakes were also a hit – the adults enjoyed the blueberry pancakes, but the children preferred the chocolate chip pancakes. Nan took some pictures.

Tree Blaze Issue at Nagog: Bob removed blazes from a tree that borders Nagog Hill Road and he removed a blaze from a tree at the end of this informal trail around Nagog Pond so as to avoid confusion to walkers. Jim will call the Concord Water District to discuss the issue with them.

Mt.Hope Cemetery Boardwalk: Bob, Jim, and Laurie completed the boardwalk at Mt.Hope Cemetery which connects to the Heath Hen area.

Grassy Pond Meadow: Jim Young is going to mow Grassy Pond Meadow.

Stoneymeade: Nan said that there were some nice wild grape vines at the Stoneymeade land. She suggested that they be encouraged by not mowing them down as 70-90 species feed on grapes.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 7, at 4:00 P.M.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00.